Special — Illinois Prisons In Black And White

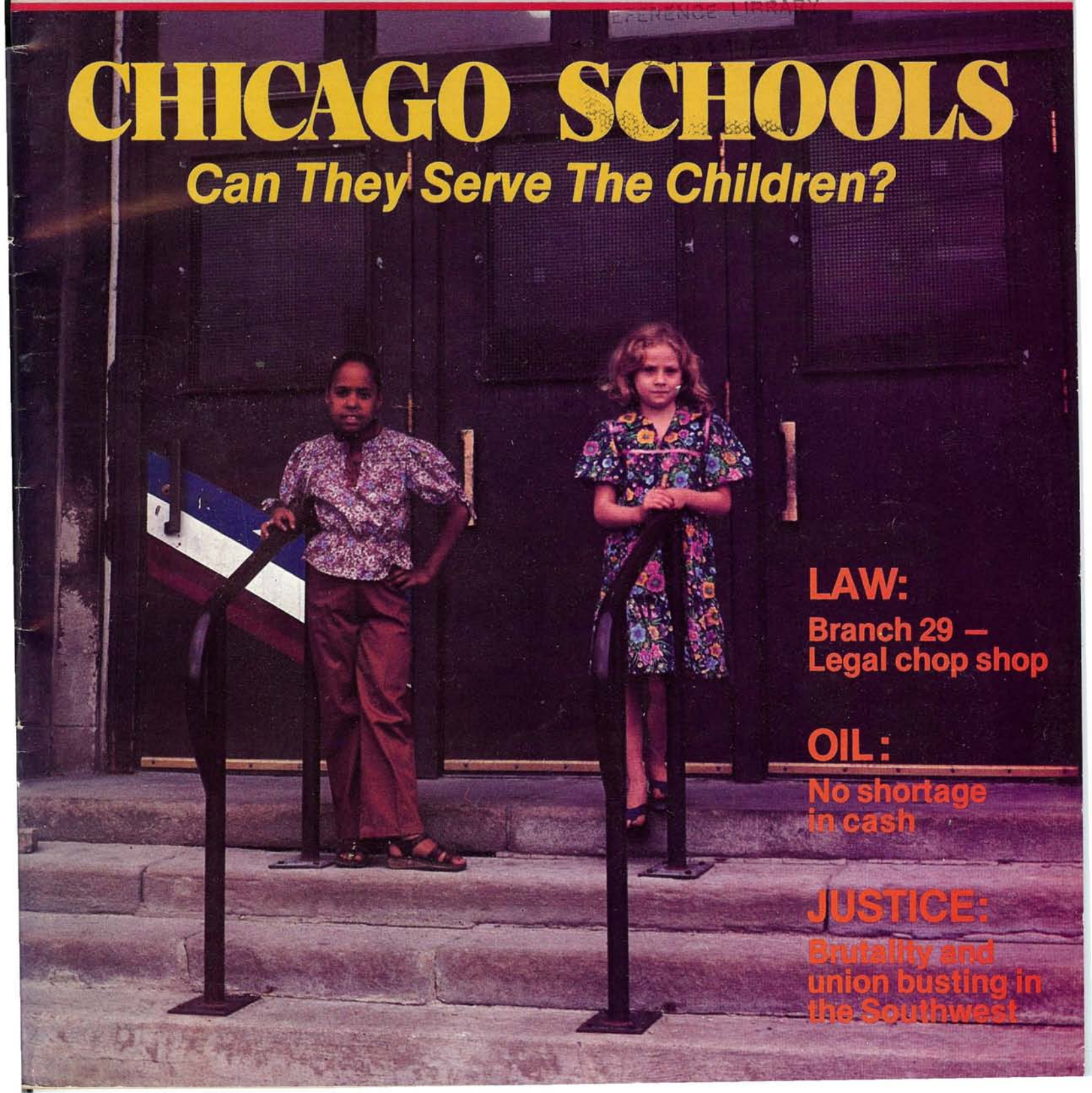
KEEP STRONG

September, 1979 Voices of Chicago's Communities $1.00

CHICAGO MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

CHICAGO SCHOOLS

Can They Serve The Children?



LAW:
Branch 29 — Legal chop shop

OIL:
No shortage in cash

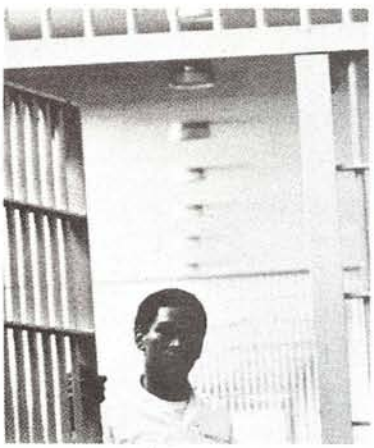
JUSTICE:
Brutality and union busting in the Southwest

THIS MONTH IN

8 Slumlord — State Representative Danny O'Brien owns some buildings in Uptown; one is empty, the other three-fourths empty and no one can figure out why.

25 The destruction of the Cherokee Nation and the forced march removal of its people from their land is examined in Eugene Feldman's "Looking Back" column.

33 As school opens, KEEP STRONG talked to parents at three elementary schools, while George Schmidt looks at what's wrong with public education in Chicago.



46 Illinois Prisons — On the inside, from the lips of those who know the system best. A KEEP STRONG special.

52 Oil — Nobody outside big oil really knows how much money is made or how they make it. The Energy Research Unit has dug up some facts to tell you just how big the rip-off is.

62 Chicanos across the country organize for justice in the Hanigan case in Arizona and Cesar Chavez and the UFW call for a nationwide boycott of Chiquita Bananas.

KEEP STRONG...

16 Helen Shiller responds to a politically motivated attack on Uptown's successful lunch program.

18 Johnny Lira spends Survival Day with the Youth of Uptown on the Sunnyside Mall.

CONTENTS

FEATURES

33 *CHICAGO SCHOOLS: Can They serve the children?*

46 *Illinois Prisons in Black and White*

52 *Oil*

58 *The Dealmaker and the Human Cargo*

VIEWPOINTS

2 **Editorial:** *Who knows what goes on in the schools?*

3 **Comment:** *The myth of the Sun Belt*

16 **Children's Lunch Program:** *Community responds to political attack*

REPORTS

6 **Law:** *Branch 29 — legal chop shop*

8 **Housing:** *Slumlord*

13 **Rank and File:** *Stewart-Warner — The struggle for a decent union*

City News:

19 *RTA fare hike rejected by labor and community groups*

21 *Neighborhood group backs down Park District*

23 *Black Taxpayers Revolt*

Justice:

62 *"The issue is brutality against Latinos"*

65 *United Farm Workers Boycott Chiquita Bananas*

68 *Nuclear accidents endanger Navajos*

69 *Birmingham: Police shooting angers Black community*

70 *Veterans form Agent Orange task force*

Intercommunal Perspective:

72 *Zimbabwe*

75 *Haiti*

AND...

10 **Behind the Faces:** *Lilly Smith*

25 **Looking Back:** *The removal of the Cherokee Nation*

28 **Interview:** *C. Allen Morrow*

77 **Sports:** *Summer softball league*

79 **Entertainment:** *Fifth Annual Community Arts Festival*

From The Editor

Friends,

There are a few things about this issue that I'd like to call your attention to.

Many hours of work and many years of first hand experience make up the sentences and paragraphs of "Illinois Prisons in Black and White." The article is intended to strip away the walls of the Illinois prison system so you can look squarely at how racism is bred inside the criminal justice system.

The Energy Research Unit has put together a very specific analysis of the gigantic profits in the oil industry. At last we have facts that blow away the lies blaming OPEC for high prices and drivers for shortages at the pumps.

The staff is proud to welcome George Schmidt and Charlie Young to a growing list of contributors. Both men bring years of hard labor and community organizing to the pages of the magazine.

Finally, with this issue we are beginning our Community Art Series. Every month the back cover will carry art from talented, conscious artists from communities around Chicago and elsewhere. This month we have featured the work of Carlos Cortez who lives and works in Chicago and is chairman of MARCH – Movimiento Artistico Chicano. □

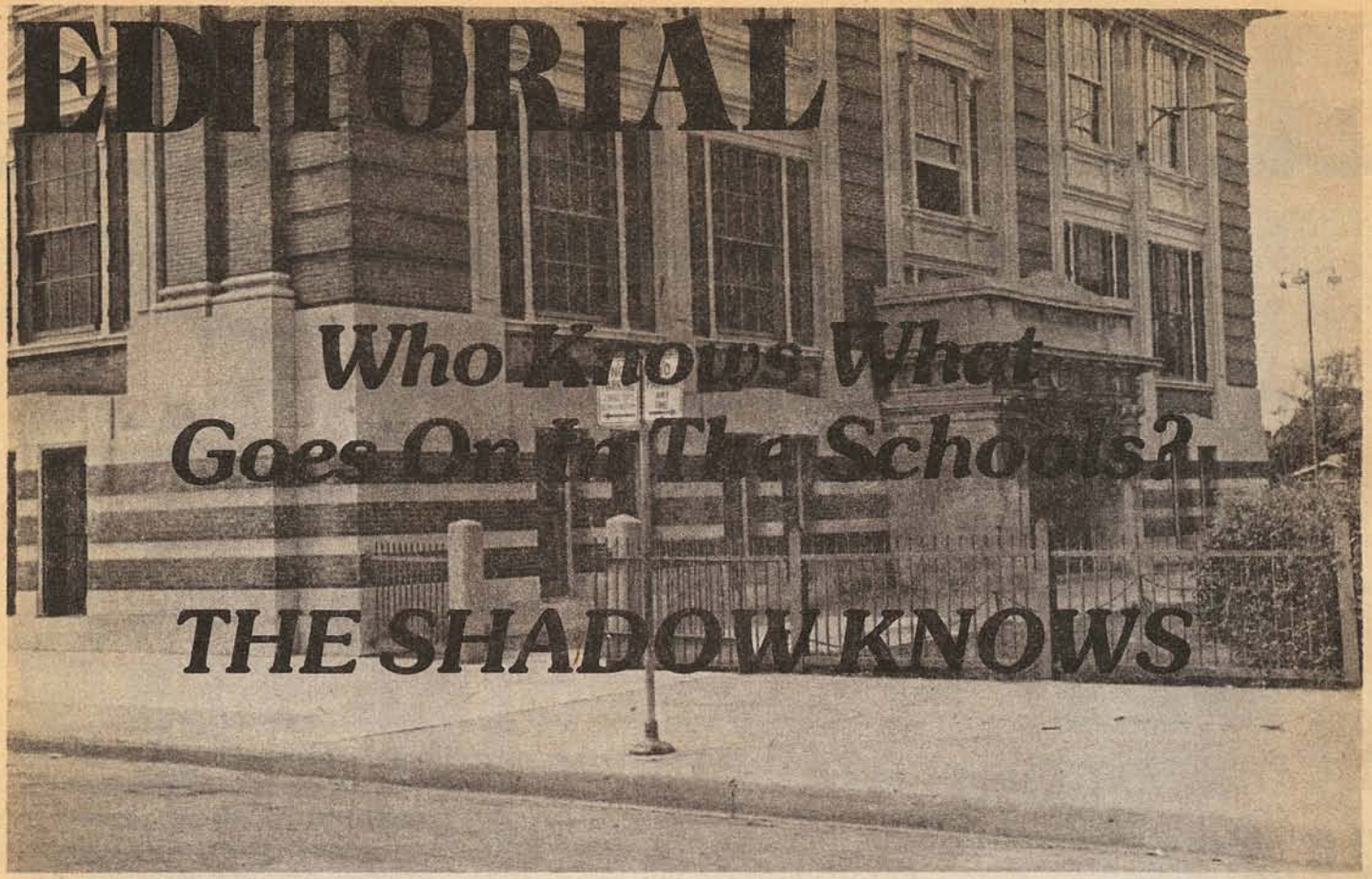
Marc Zalkin, Acting Editor

Cover photo by Kim Nash

KEEP STRONG is published by Keep Strong Publishing Company, 1222 W. Wilson Avenue, Chicago Illinois 60640 (312) 769-2087. September, 1979, Volume 4, Number 5. Subscriptions are $6 a year for individuals; $25 a year for libraries, schools and other institutions.

©Copyright 1979, Keep Strong Publishing Company. Acting Editor – Marc Zalkin.

EDITORIAL



Some point their fingers at the teachers. They say they don't care, aren't qualified, don't try. Some point their fingers at the administrators: they don't care, they aren't qualified, they don't try. Some point their fingers at the parents: they don't care, they aren't qualified, they don't try.

Everybody knows that the schools in Chicago aren't working. Every year it grows worse.

There are facts to show that the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Hannon, are doing a bad job. First of all, the money is misspent. More money goes into administration each year and less into teaching. More money goes into bricks and mortar and real estate each year, and less into books and educational supplies.

Second, the school system is divided by race and class. If you live in a poor, a Black or a Latino area, less money is spent for your child's education than if you are middle class: a lot less. The "Access to Excellence" program is simply a smokescreen to cover up this situation and actually contributes to making the distribution of resources more unequal.

Third, nothing is being done to make teachers more effective. As a matter of fact, the experts and bureaucrats have designed a system for the teachers that guarantees they will spend most of their time filling out forms, and almost none of it teaching children. Individual attention is possible now mostly in discipline situations.

These facts are well documented in this issue of KEEP STRONG: but the truth about the schools lies elsewhere. The truth lies in the desperation, frustration and anger of those who have passed through or out of the Chicago Public School system in the last ten years. They are the shadow cast by a system that fails. And only they really know what it means.

The failure of the public school system is not something that came about last year. It

In school year 1978-79 the Chicago Board of Education spent $60 on construction for every child and $12 on supplies and textbooks.

has been a failure for many years. And there are hundreds and hundreds of thousands of graduates of this failure. These people, the shadow cast by the system, are really its only hope.

Mayor Byrne can change the school board, and she should. She can fire the superintendent, Joseph Hannon, and that is long overdue. But these changes at the top will make little difference.

To change the schools, the shadow must slip into the schools. The teachers must be organized and encouraged to teach. Dope must be eliminated. The interest of young students must be kept alive. Bureaucratic administrators and bureaucratic educational systems must be intimidated out of the schools. And where there is not enough money, politicians must be put up against the wall to get the money there.

Those who have been miseducated and poorly educated must slide stealthily into every aspect of the schools, into the classrooms, among the children hanging around the schools, into the teachers' homes and up in the face of bureaucrats and politicians. They must be organized, crafty and relentless. The shadows must infiltrate the schools; demanding, encouraging, intimidating and organizing quality in education and respect for the truth and the struggle for self-knowledge.

Who knows what goes on in the schools? The shadow knows. And only the shadow can and wants to do something about it. □

The Myth Of The Sun Belt

by Charlie Young

During the last few years much has been made of the "Sun Belt Boom." The national news media has regualrly informed the rest of the country that "the economy in the south and southwest is rapidly expanding. The cost of living in the Sun Belt is lower, plenty of jobs are available, housing and utility costs are affordable."

And the skies are not cloudy all day.

To working class people feeling the squeeze in other parts of the country, the quality of life in the Sun Belt sounds attractive. However, low-income and working class people in the southern part of the country are raising some serious questions about this new "promised land." Questions like, who has this land been promised to?

The economic situation in Dallas, Texas is representative of the rapidly urbanizing Sun Belt. Jobs are still available, although not nearly as plentiful as several years ago. Most of the job openings are in the service sector (delivery, warehouse, etc.) as Dallas, like most Sun Belt cities, is largely non-industrial. Many of these jobs become available not because of economic growth but because of high employee turnover. Average pay for these jobs hovers around $3.00 an hour with sparse, if any benefits. Unions have in the recent past been weak without vital rank and file connections. The fluid nature of the labor market is intensified by the widespread exploitation of undocumented workers.

Transportation remains one of the biggest problems for inner city job seekers, as most job sites are scattered. The rates for public transportation, such as it even exists in Dallas, are as of July 1, 1979, the highest in the United States. And that's the good news.

As in most urban areas, developers build housing for the monied classes and quick rates of return. This is especially true in rental housing which is the fifth most subsidized industry in the United States. Only after owners depreciate and milk their properties dry, do poor people have places to live; and then often times this lasts only until owners decide to unload the buildings altogether and that's when the arsonists come to give tenants their eviction notices.

Now, however, home seekers are such a captive audience that apartment building owners are finding it more profitable as we head into the recession to convert their apartment units into condominiums and sell these at high prices to individuals. This means that low-income residents have to live in fewer homes in worse conditions for more money.

Most of the new residents moving to Dallas and the Sun Belt are more mobile and monied people and many are in middle level management positions. The presence of these people creates more demand for high priced – high rent housing. And local developers and large apartment owners are quick to target poor people as those who have to move. We all know what targets are for. Older inner city homes are rapidly being converted for upper-income, single family residences. One house in East Dallas, which three years ago sold for $12,000 is now on the market, after simple paint and powder repairs, for $120,000.

In fact the cost of living is not necessarily cheaper in the Sun Belt. According to Deprtment of Labor statistics released July 26, 1979, the annual rate of inflation in Dallas at present is now over 15 percent. This is about 2 percent higher than the national average. And the economy here is not just playing "catch-up." The Dallas-Fort Worth consumer price index is now at 217.5. This

Charlie Young is an activist and organizer in Dallas, Texas and founder of the Bois D'Arc Patriots, a community organization in East Dallas, Texas. With this issue he starts a column in KEEP STRONG.

means that it costs $217.50 today to buy the same things that $100 would have bought in 1967. The national consumer price index is now $216.60. In other words, it is now more expensive to live in Dallas-Fort Worth than it is in most other places in the United States.

Urban areas all over the Sun Belt are beginning to feel the pinch. Residents in Austin, Texas are making an effort to stop their city's growth. Residents in Santa Fe, New Mexico, the oldest city in the U.S. are trying to find ways to stop the influx of the west coast jet set which have now decided that Santa Fe's the way to be. With a few changes, of course.

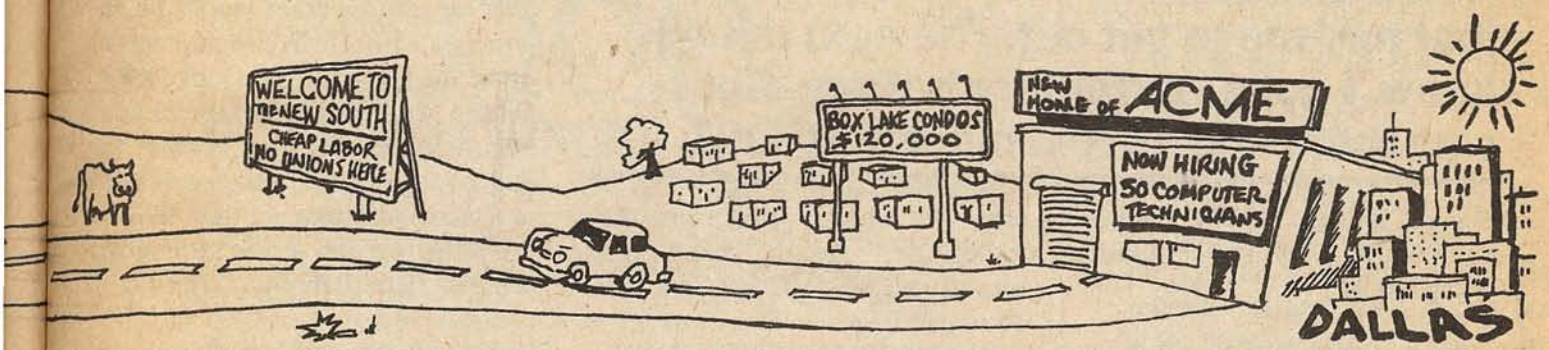
Rural areas are not untouched. In 1978 in Texas alone, almost 3,000 family farms were forced out of business. Corporations are making a strong push to buy into rural land both for the purposes of land development and corporate farming. Like speculators in urban areas, these investors are backed by both state laws and federal regulations and policies. Behind both the state and federal support are the large monopoly corporations, from food and energy, to those who are now investing heavily in real estate as a new way to generate capital.

The response of the people throughout the Sun Belt can be seen in the grass roots organizing. The Bois D'Arc Patriots in Dallas have seen early efforts at tenant organizing in East Dallas grow into statewide efforts in five major Texas cities. In Oklahoma and New Mexico strong Native American movements have begun to emerge. In Texas and New Mexico militant and increasingly well-defined efforts against police repression have emerged from the Mexican community and in the Texas Rio Grande Valley, farm workers are organizing and effectively stirring up the muddy waters of the state's post-war, anti-union law and policies.

Trade unions in both cities and towns are having growing pains from the rank and file level and public-employee unions in the cities are at last coming into their own. In the deep south, organizing in the Black community, particularly in rural areas, has started up with new energy and definition and with a solid range of connections emerging in the progressive working class White and Mexican communities. The kind of organizing going on in the Sun Belt now is not likely to become isolated. Communication within the Sun Belt is good and growing as is communication between groups within the Sun Belt and other groups in other parts of the country.

There's a logical reason for this developing and national unity. We are walking on common ground. We are facing similar problems. Working class people in Dallas must fight real estate speculators and their servants in city hall; must protect themselves against arson and develop their own solutions to the economic institutions that increasingly operate not by serving the people but by feeding off of the people. Working class people in Chicago have the same basic set of problems.

Monopolism, where the economy and government are controlled by only a few is a dangerous disease that spreads rapidly and causes its victim, that is our society, to choke. We can ignore it before it starts to slow our vital signs and leads to gradual paralysis, or we can flail around violently and look for scapegoats such as Viet Nam, or maybe Nicaragua or the Arabs. Or we can accept the fact that we must free ourselves from this parasite attached as it is to the great majority of us.



All we have to do is keep our heads, be willing to work with others who have similar problems and soon we will be able to collectively develop our own resources and solve our own problems.

Now it is our lack of unity, like so many festering sores, that accounts for our weaknesses and our dependencies on the monopolies.

The cost of living should have nothing to do with anything on Wall Street or State Street. The price is unity and the deal is made on streets where we live. □

Branch 29 — Legal Chop Shop

(Chicago, Ill.) By 9:15 in the morning all the seats are filled. The bailiff begins to call the names. "Smith, Martinez, Ball, Brown, Ohara, Brotski." All colors, all races, all nationalities line the walls and fill the seats of Branch 29. The children of Chicago have come to meet justice Chicago style.

"He didn't tell me to come back. He just told me to get out. The next thing I know, I got a warrant for battery. But I was there and he told me to get out."

Manuel Figueroa describes the legal process as it went on in Branch 29 one morning about a month ago.

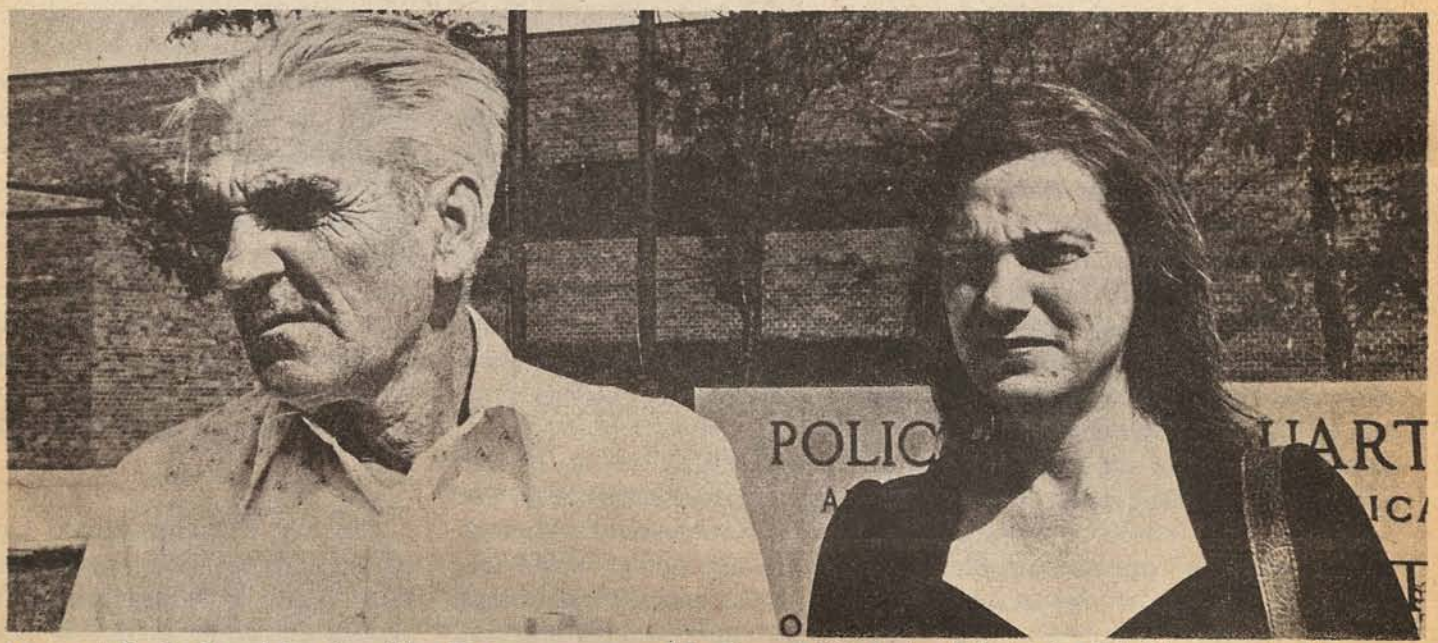
"My friend asked me to go to court with him. We don't have a car, so we had to take the bus. We got there, Branch 29, by Belmont and Western, about 10 minutes after 11. It was an 11 o'clock call. We tried to get in front to find out if his name had been called. But they told us to sit down. We waited there about 20 minutes. When the judge called the recess, he said if there was anyone who had not been called to step in front.

"We went to the front and asked about his name. They said, 'He was not here on time and he's got a $200 warrant.' I said, 'Well, he's here now, what can we do?' They told us to go home.

"We walked to the sheriff and he said the only one who could help us was a lawyer from the bar association. We talked to him and he wanted $100 to bring the case up again. My friend was not working. He didn't have any income. So we talked to the PD (public defender) and he told us there would be another call at 1:30. We went there for the 1:30 p.m. call. The judge asked us why we were late for the 11 a.m. call. I asked Martinez because the judge told me to. Martinez explained we were late because that day we took the bus and it was raining but we were here 10 minutes after 11.

"The judge told us, 'Listen, all these people here take the bus and they were here on time. That's no reason.'

"Martinez said, 'Tell me what to do now.' The judge said, 'Tell him



Leonard Tackett and his daughter Dreama appeared in Branch 29. Judge Edelstein didn't know who they were and sent them home. They then got a warrant in the mail.

to go home and wait for the police to arrest him.' "

Judge Ben Edelstein presides in Branch 29. He keeps things moving and hears as many as 20 or 25 cases in an hour. Many of these cases are continued to another date. Bench trials last six or seven minutes. Branch 29 is a misdemeanor court for a huge chunk of Chicago's northside. A misdemeanor is any offense punishable by less than a year in prison.

Leonard Tackett and his daughter Dreama were summoned to Branch 29 last February on a charge of battery. Leonard Tackett is 74 years old. Mr. Tackett and his daughter explain what they found in Branch 29. "We went into the courthouse and I didn't know what to do. I told the judge we wanted a continuance and he said 'All right.' I went in there again and told him that I wanted another continuance.

"I went back a month later and he told me that he didn't know who I was or what I was talking about. See, I thought I was supposed to be there and that's why I was sitting there. Yes, that was the same judge (I had been in front of a month before) and he didn't tell me to come back again or anything. He just told me to get out. The next thing I know I got a warrant for battery in the mail.

"There is a warrant out for both of our arrests but they haven't picked me up yet. I don't know if they want to try and say I hadn't been in the courthouse. But I was in there and he told me to get out. The warrant said I have to come and post money, $100, within 24 hours. I don't have it. It'll be a long time before I get any more money. I'll get picked up sooner or later. The police will pick me up."

Judge Edelstein is assisted by several sheriff's deputies, who help him keep things moving.

Old women who argue with their neighbors; young boys who get caught drinking in a tot lot; drivers who talk smart to cops writing tickets come and go five days a week, several hundred cases a week. One third walk away because the complaining witness doesn't show up and the sleepy state's attorney motions to drop the charges. Another third get fined or put on probation for drinking or disorderly or harassing someone else and a third get chopped up like Leonard Tackett and his daughter or Manuel Figuroa's friend, Martinez. □

Joy of living grows from a joy of study of the

ARTS AND SCIENCES AT ROOSEVELT

Here you'll find courses cultivating the life of your mind. History, languages, literature, social and natural sciences and much more. And, courses leading to a productive work life. Gerontology, health sciences, psychology. To balance and enrich the quality of your total life.

You may earn your Bachelor's or Master's degree, or study simply for the love of learning. Guided by a distinguished faculty. In interesting classes. Where you and your needs are important.

Want to study full-time? Part-time? Roosevelt University has the programs you've been looking for. Roosevelt, for example, graduates the country's fourth largest number of Master's degrees in chemistry, many of the credits for which were earned at night.

Classes are held WHEN and WHERE they are convenient for you. Days, evenings, Saturdays, Sundays, downtown and in Arlington Heights. Evenings and Sundays in Glenview. Evenings in Great Lakes and Waukegan.

ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY

The quality education you need for the quality of life you want

REGISTRATION STARTS AUGUST 27
CLASSES START WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 4

For more information, phone 341-3655 or send in coupon

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION
Roosevelt University
430 So. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60605 Dept.

Please send me a graduate application and information on Liberal Arts:
☐ Bachelor's Degree ☐ Master's Degree ☐ Non-credit programs

Name_____
Address_____ Tel_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Roosevelt University admits students on the basis of individual merit and without regard to race, color, creed, sex or physical handicap.

ROOSEVELT

Slumlord

(Chicago, Ill.) "When I first moved in here, there was hardly a vacancy. I had to wait several weeks before I could move in. The building was in excellent condition. We had all sorts of services. Anything the tenants wanted they received. When the O'Briens took over it was an altogether different thing."

"First, they made everyone move from the top floors to below the fifth floor. This was supposedly so they could fix up the top floors, but all they did was put carpet in some of them, put on a coat of white paint and hang some cheap chandeliers. The building was furnished. They took out all the furniture and left only the sinks and refrigerators. All the tenants started moving out because they had to take apartments they did not want.

My kitchen sink hasn't worked for a month. I can't use it at all. When I told Mrs. Willis about it she said, "Well, the bath tub works, wash your dishes in the bathtub."

"They fired the maintenance man and the security man. They fired everyone that was maintaining the building and giving security. The only time we saw any of them was rent day when Mrs. Willis (Danny O'Brien's sister) came to pick up the checks."

"As soon as they put down some carpeting and paint, the rents went up $30 per apartment and nothing's been done. This apartment hasn't been touched in ten years at least. No painting, no decorating. The linoleum in the kitchen is worn out, my refrigerator doesn't work. She promised me a new stove and refrigerator when I took this apartment over two years ago and I've never gotten them. The O'Briens had this building over two years. Around March the gas was cut off."

They don't want to hear anything about the problems in the building. My kitchen sink hasn't worked for a month. I can't use it at all. When I told Mrs. Willis about it she said, 'Well, your bath tub works, wash your dishes in the bath tub.' They have stripped all the plumbing and locks from the vacant apartments and put them in other apartments that have been run down. There are toilets and kitchen sinks ripped out. The sixth floor is totally stripped. This building is nothing but a carcass. There are no fire extinguishers, the elevators don't work half the time. I'm scared there'll be a fire some day and I'll never get out of here."

"I guess they ran out of funds or they just got fed up or something. We never did get anything done on the bottom floors. The whole reason for us to move was so they could refurnish the top floors and then work on the bottom. There's no carpeting in my hallway, it's all cement.

"On the fifth floor now, not only is there no fire extinguisher, there is no fire hose. So if the firemen came up, they would have nothing to put the fire out with. They can't bring a hose from the fourth floor to the fifth floor; it won't reach. There's only one other person on my floor and she's hard of hearing. If there were a fire up there I couldn't jump out the window. If there were a fire outside my door, I could never get out there to make the fire escape or the staircase."

"For awhile all the mail was torn up. There was no one to take care of the mail. I had a check that was mailed to me on April 27. I didn't get it until about three weeks ago. There are no mail boxes. Someone is supposed to be there to receive it. We have to wait for Mrs. Willis to come, which isn't everyday. You never know what time she's coming. Any mail that was left in the box would be torn up. They'd get in here at night and tear it up."

"Nobody new stays in this building for more than a month. The services are so terrible and she wants such high rents that people stay maybe a month and then move out. A 60-year-old woman got raped here two weeks ago. They got on the fire escape and climbed through the window. We used to have a man go around and check all the doors at night. Now there is no one."

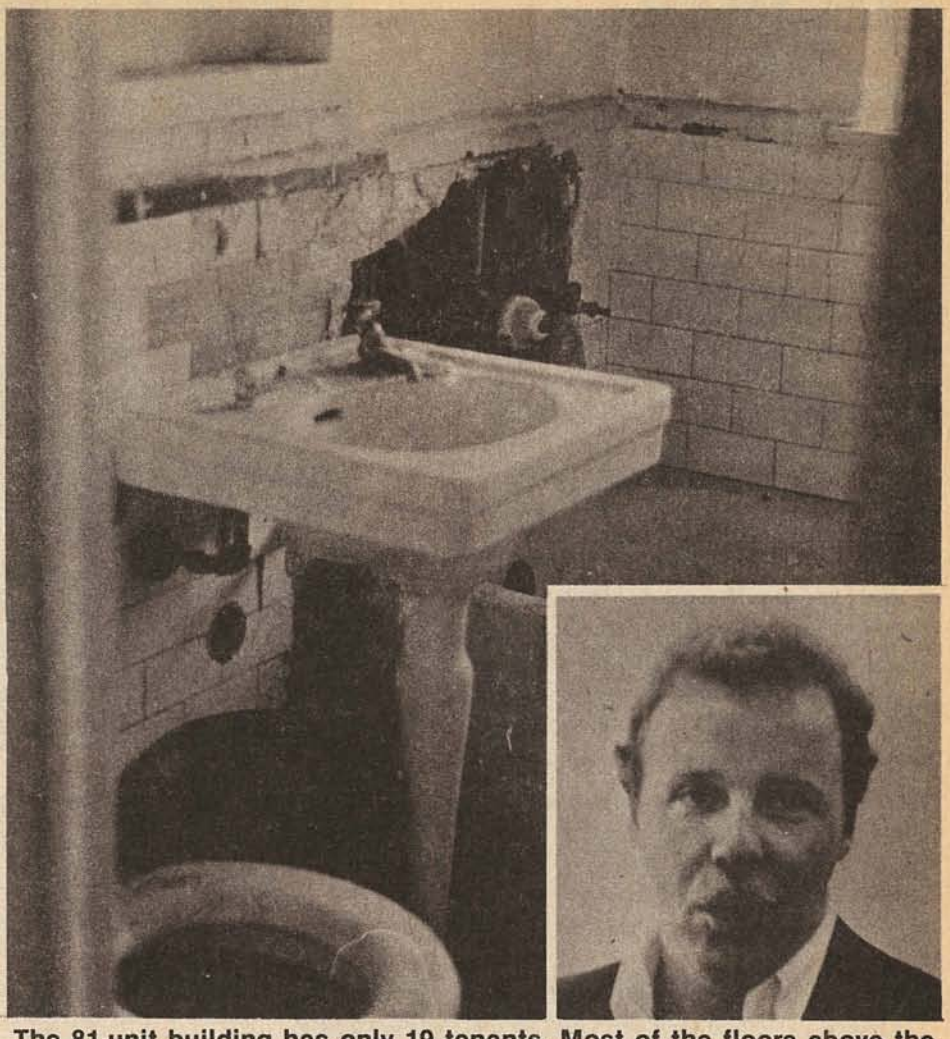
This is the way several tenants describe life and the conditions at the Hazel Manor Apartments, 4278 N. Hazel. The 81-unit building at 4278 N. Hazel has 19 tenants. Information from tenants and previous managers reveals that the building is owned by State Representative Danny O'Brien (D.-13)

and managed by his sister, Maureen Willis.

Records of the People's Gas Company indicate the building's account is in the name of the Hazel Manor Apartments. The landlord owes $12,000 in back bills. Spokesmen for the gas company said that the owner had arranged to make $5,500 installment payments but hasn't come up with the money yet and that's why service has been discontinued.

The O'Brien family has been dabbling in Uptown real estate for a number of years. O'Brien's father, Dan, Sr., was the title holder of the building at 4144 N. Sheridan, the Seville, when it was vacated almost two years ago. Before that it had been a stable building occupied mainly by working men and women. It stands today, the windows broken out, the walls charred from half a dozen fires, as evidence of what the future holds for 4278 N. Hazel.

The O'Brien family is a power in Democratic politics in Chicago. State Rep. Danny O'Brien is the Democratic ward committeeman of the 43rd ward. KEEP STRONG contacted him at his office at 1143 W. Webster – the 43rd Ward Regular Democratic Organization Headquarters. When we asked him if he owned the building he told us:



The 81-unit building has only 19 tenants. Most of the floors above the sixth have been stripped and abandoned. State Rep. O'Brien (inset) denied ever owning the building, but knew when it had been "sold" and who the buyer was. He admitted that "somebody in the family" may have had a piece of it.

O'Brien: It's not true. I do not own the building. The building has been sold. It's owned by a different man. I'm not sure but I think his name is Anderson. The building was sold about two months ago.

KEEP STRONG: Was it sold by you?

O'Brien: What do you mean "sold by me?"

KEEP STRONG: Sold by you or anyone in your family.

O'Brien: It was in trust. We own some buildings on the block but we don't own the building now.

KEEP STRONG: But you did, two months ago?

O'Brien: No, I didn't.

KEEP STRONG: Did your family own it?

O'Brien: There may have been somebody in the family that may have had a piece of it, but they were not the principal in the building.

The use of run-down buildings for tax deductions by politicians and wealthy investors is nothing new to Uptown. Fortunes have been made and saved manipulating property from hand to hand, concealing true ownership behind trusts, cutting corners on gas and electric bills.

But Danny O'Brien is a lawmaker in Springfield. The people have entrusted him to represent their interests in the state legislature. The profits that he has made from gutting 4278 Hazel run into tens of thousands of dollars and the price has been misery for the tenants. □

Behind the Faces

LILLY SMITH

In 1960 Lilly Smith came to Chicago from Kentucky. She had $5, no job, no friends in the city and no place to go. The only thing she knew about Chicago was the name "Belmont."

Lilly Smith grew up in the coal mining camps of Pike and Floyd County Kentucky. She now lives in Rogers Park on Chicago's north side with her daughter Theresa. Active with the Chicago Welfare Defense Union, Lilly is a self-educated woman who has worked all her life. The following excerpt is published with permission from the forthcoming book, ***Me and the Angels of Hell****, by Lilly Smith and Walter David Younce, copyrighted 1978. This excerpt describes Lilly's arrival in Chicago and her first days in the city. The author invites comments from our readers to be sent to Lilly Smith c/o KEEP STRONG, 1222 W. Wilson, Chicago, Illinois 60640.*

I made arrangements with my family to take care of my kids and was ready to go to Chicago. I had never been out of Kentucky and it was exciting to me. I had pictured Chicago as a clean place to live with a lot of people but I had a lot to learn. Remember Pikeville. . .its coal mines, the frantic shadows, theaters in the angry morning hours. . .wounded roads. . .horror movies. . .courtyards. . . .Remember rock'n roll. Music blasting from jukeboxes. . . leering obscenely. . . . Blinking many colors along the streets of Chicago. . .strung like a cheap necklace from Kentucky to Chicago. One night sex, cigarette smoke and rooms squished together by loneliness. I would remember lives lived out darkly in Kentucky from all night movies. It begins in the winding southern windstorms with the gray clouds like steel doors.

We got to the Greyhound bus station in Chicago at 8:45 a.m. To me it looked so big. . . .I didn't know where to turn or what to do. I only had $5 in my pocket. The bus driver bought me breakfast because I threw a woman off the bus who was giving him a hard time in Akron, Ohio.

Then I came outside. The only name of a street I knew was Belmont. I knew that from hearing my friends talk about it. I got on a city

bus and asked him to let me off at Belmont. At about 11:30 a.m. I got to Belmont and started walking. I stopped at Mars Candy Company and at all the restaurants I saw. And I stopped at Brewers looking for work. I stopped at any place I thought I could find a job. All of them told me to put in an application and they would call me. But I didn't have an address so I couldn't put in an application blank.

Blinking many colors along the streets of Chicago. . .strung like a cheap necklace from Kentucky to Chicago.

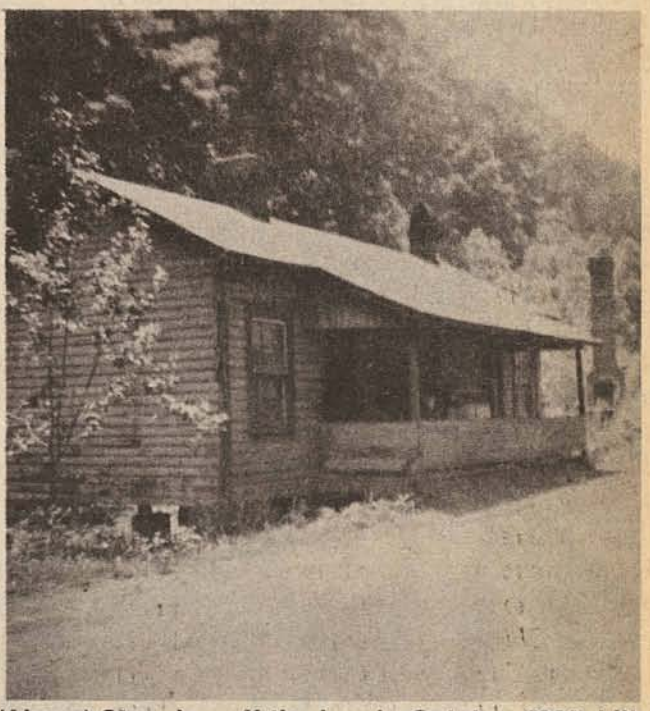
I walked until 5:30 p.m. I was so tired but finally came to the 1300 block of Belmont. There I met a woman coming out from behind two buildings. She was pushing a stroller with a little girl in it. A little boy about four years old walked along beside her holding on to the stroller. I walked up to her. She was very nervous. I asked her if she knew the city. She said yes and I told her I was looking for work and asked her if she knew of any place where they were hiring. I remember her moving closer to me to see if she could smell whiskey because she thought I was drunk. She told me if I could use a sewing machine they were hiring at 1320 Belmont.

It was right across the street from where we were standing. There was a sign in the window that said "Help Wanted — Sewing Machine Operator." We introduced ourselves and her name was Mona. Her baby's name was Jimmy. She went with me and we went across the street up to the second floor. We met a woman named Helen. She was a real nice looking woman, but real grouchy. She was about 65 years old and had short gray hair. She was one of the owners. Everyone in the factory hated her. I told her I saw a "Help Wanted" sign downstairs and I asked her if the job was still available. She said yes.

She took me over to the sewing machine and put me to work sewing leather book backs. I was used to sewing material so I didn't take my backstitch. I took my forward stitch but not my backstitch. She told me, "You can't have the job! You just don't know the machine." She was real grouchy. In other words she was telling me, you can't have the job because you don't know the work. I told her, "Well, maybe I don't know how to work the machine but I have to have work. Surely you've got something around here I could do."

Then she took me over to a tall blond guy named Barney who was her nephew and part-owner. She introduced me to him and told him that I had never worked in a factory before but that I needed a job. She asked him if he had anything I could do, and he put me to work putting books away and putting covers on them. It paid $3.25 an hour. He told me to come in the next morning.

We came back outside from the leather shop and Mona's little boy started crying for something to eat. We were walking down the street



(Above) Stepping off the bus in October 1960, Lilly went directly to Belmont Avenue, a name she had heard back home. (Below) Much of her childhood had been spent in this house in Kentucky.

and I asked Mona if she lived around here. She said she lived across the street. I asked her why she didn't take Jimmy home and feed him. She said that she didn't have anything to eat at home. She was on welfare and her check had been delayed and she had just got out of the hospital from a nervous breakdown. I told her that I had $5 and we'd take the kids and get them something to eat. I didn't even think that I didn't have any place to sleep and it was almost dark. We got inside the store and started arguing like two sisters. She wanted porkchops but they were too expensive. So we got hamburger, a bag of self-rising flour, chocolate and butter. That's all we could get with $5. We came back outside and it was a beautiful evening but it was dark and I had no place to stay. She told me that she had a five room apartment and since I had been so kind to her and her family she asked me if I wanted to stay the night with them. She said that she was divorced and there were only the three of them living in that big apartment.

The next morning Barney wasn't there. A woman named Lynn put me to work filling orders. Can you imagine me filling orders when I couldn't even read or write? Barney came in about 12 o'clock and he was very angry because Lynn had me filling orders but I must admit that I was doing pretty good. I hadn't made any mistakes. But a man had his hand cut off the day before by the same machine and Barney was afraid to let me work on it.

I'd been there a week and I asked Barney for some overtime work; they gave it to their older girls. He said they couldn't do that because Helen was there and she wouldn't let new people have overtime. About 30 minutes after I got home Barney came over and gave me a key to the shop and said, "Work all the overtime you want. Just don't let Helen catch you." He also gave me an extra punch out card.

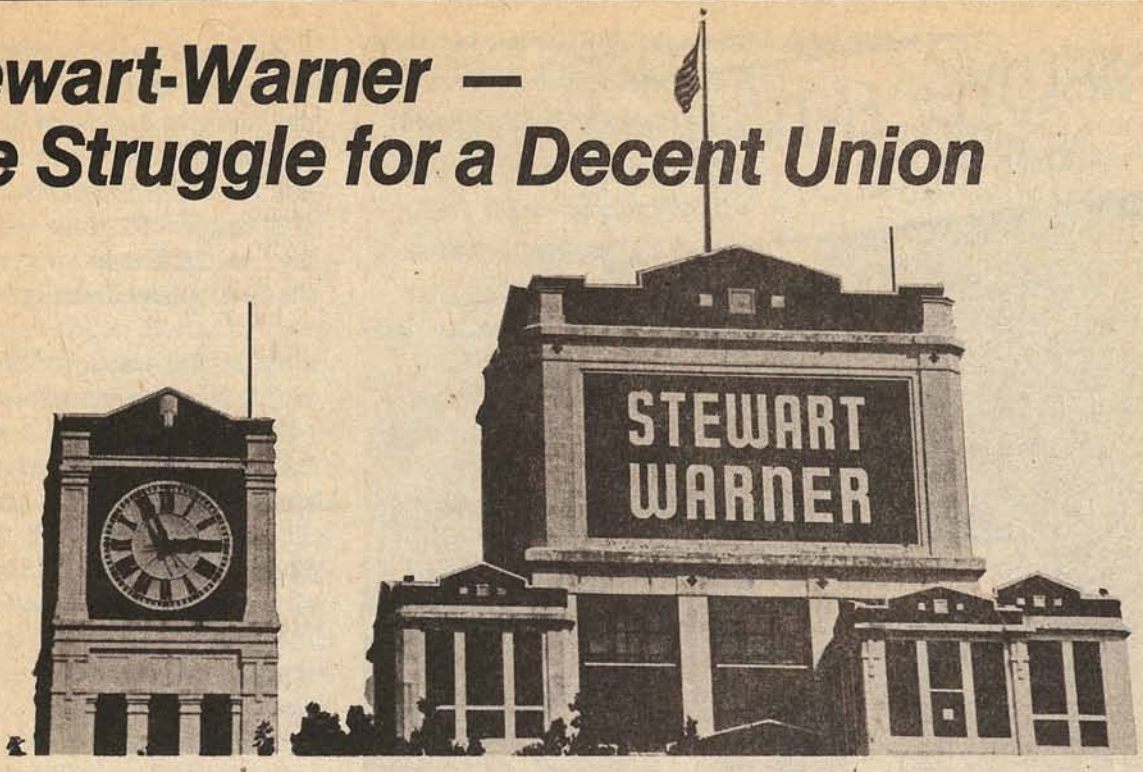
My birthday was November 30. I never had a birthday party before, or even a birthday cake. I didn't expect one that year either, so I worked just as much. I worked until three in the morning and then went across the street to the apartment. All the lights were off. When I came in they turned the lights on and started singing "Happy Birthday." I was so shocked I didn't know what to do. Mona had invited some people whom I worked with and they had all bought me small presents and birthday cards. The presents were things like a watch, underclothes and blouses, and in each card there was money. I really needed it then, too.

"I had never been out of Kentucky and it was exciting to me. I had pictured Chicago as a clean place to live with a lot of people, but I had a lot to learn."

Towards the last of December I was out of work because it was seasonal. I was really in a spot then. I didn't know what I was going to do with three kids and no job. I was out of work for about three weeks. I looked everywhere but I couldn't find a job. I didn't really know where to look because I didn't know the city. I was getting pretty low on money. □

On her first night in Chicago Lilly Smith met a woman who had a big apartment but no money or food for her children. Lilly had $5 and no place to sleep. They became friends quickly.

Stewart-Warner — The Struggle for a Decent Union



(Chicago, Ill.) The big block letters on the side of the building declare that it's the "Symbol of Excellence" and you're supposed to believe it, even though the main building bears a suspicious resemblance to a medieval dungeon. The lobby facing Diversey Ave. is nicely furnished and has brightly colored displays of Stewart-Warner's products: speedometers, gauges, tachometers and lubricating equipment. Clean and neat and packaged and persuasive, a fine corporate image for a great modern company with $333 million in annual sales. And the heart of the operation is right here on the north side of Chicago.

But if you get past the guard there's another story inside. Noxious fumes in the plating department and in receiving make you cough just passing through. Deafening noise in the punch press and screw machine departments far exceeds the legal safety standards set by the federal government. And in the women's departments, the harassment and intimidation by management — you're supposed to ask permission to go to the bathroom — serve as a constant reminder that the workers come last at the "Symbol of Excellence."

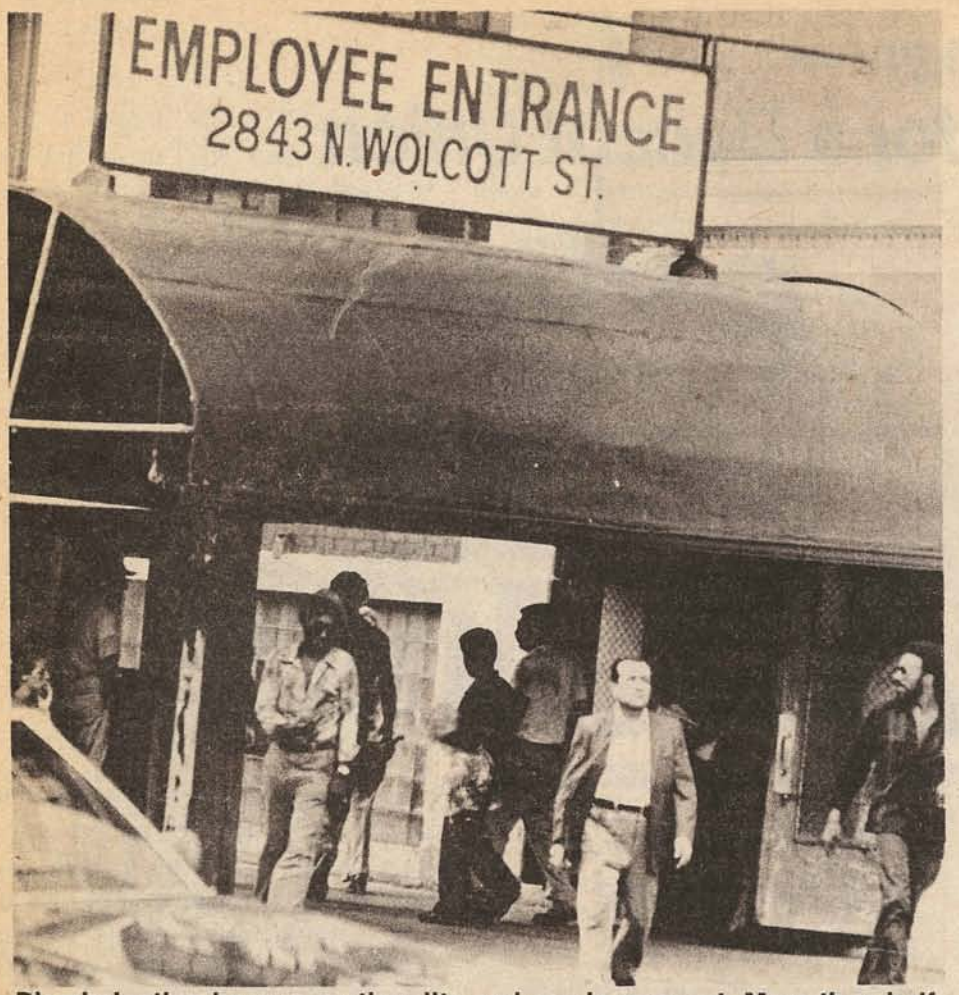
They're up against a large and powerful corporation which has shown itself to be sophisticated and ruthless in its anti-labor tactics.

You'd never guess it was a union shop. Sure, there's a contract — but the company pretty much does as it pleases. They raise the rates of the jobs when they feel like it, harass the hell out of workers with arbitrary warnings and suspensions (especially if you try to enforce your rights by filing grievances). And of course if they want to fire you, they don't need much of an excuse: your top union officials will swallow almost anything. Wages are about a dollar an hour less than for comparable jobs at large manufacturing plants in the Chicago area, and with over 2,500 workers it's hard to believe that there's still no company paid pension.

Discrimination by race, nationality and sex is rampant. More than half the work force consists of minority workers, yet there are very few in the skilled trades. And the overwhelming majority of the women are trapped in the lowest-paying of the unskilled jobs — the so-called "women's labor grades," even though women comprise about half the work force.

A History Of Struggle

About seven years ago a group of dissatisfied workers got together to fight against these abuses and against the union's (Local 1031 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical



Discrimination by race, nationality and sex is rampant. More than half the work force consists of minority workers, yet there are very few in the skilled trades.

Workers) collaboration with the company. They called themselves "Concerned Workers of Stewart-Warner".

They took up cases for the people that Local 1031 shoved aside. Grievances were filed, and these workers made use of federal agencies such as the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC), which the union refused to do, to defend their rights.

The Concerned Workers were disgusted with the "Sweetheart" contracts negotiated by Local 1031. They helped get some fighting stewards elected and also got some more pro-worker people on the union negotiating committee for the 1974 contract negotiations.

After some small victories the rank and file caucus continued to grow and changed their name to the United IBEW Workers. They elected officers and had monthly meetings to deal with the problems of the workers. They also published a newspaper and launched a campaign to replace the corrupt politicians and lawyers who controlled Local 1031 with some real leaders from among the workers. They ran for local union office a slate of progressive and experienced union members from Stewart-Warner and other companies in the local.

The union held the election at their office near O'Hare airport on a Sunday morning and hired buses to pick up their own people in the city. The United IBEW Workers took Local 1031 to court for these and other voting irregularities but nevertheless lost the election and it was upheld.

After the election Dick Deason, business manager of Local 1031, (who "earns" $70,000 a year) took the badges away from seven stewards, in a move designed to further stamp out all opposition to his sell-out policies. These stewards that he dismissed had all been elected by the people.

After this slap in the face it was clear that the workers of Stewart-Warner had to do something to get control of the union. So they began a campaign to get a separate local within the IBEW, in order to enable the workers at Stewart-Warner to elect their own leaders.

The International office of the IBEW had indicated that they would allow a vote on this issue if enough workers at Stewart-Warner signed cards requesting a separate local. The United IBEW Workers gathered signatures until the International said there were enough. Then, last February, the International double-crossed the workers and flatly refused to allow an election for a separate local!

The United Workers Association

What next for the workers of Stewart-Warner? Years of organizing and struggle had won some small gains but failed to make any appreciable changes in the structure of functioning of the union. With the same company union, without being able to elect even their own shop stewards, how could the workers of

Stewart-Warner hope to win any improvement in their wages or working conditions?

This course of events has left Stewart-Warner workers with only one choice: to throw out 1031 and bring in a new union. Drawing on the experience of another Stewart-Warner plant in Spring Valley, Illinois, they have proceeded to do just that.

The workers at Stewart-Warner's Hobbs plant in Spring Valley got out of Local 1031 two years ago by setting up the Spring Valley Independent Workers' Association and petitioning for an NLRB-conducted election against Local 1031. The new union won the election, got a better contract and has recently affiliated with the United Auto Workers.

This course of events has left Stewart-Warner workers with only one choice: to throw out 1031 and bring in a new union.

Here in Chicago the Stewart-Warner workers hope to do the same. They have formed a new union, the United Workers Association, and are now collecting signatures for an NLRB-election. They need at least 30 percent to sign up in order to have an election, which would then take place this fall.

The United Workers Association stands for a democratic union, with *all* officials and stewards elected by the workers of Stewart-Warner. No union official will be paid more than the highest paid union member. If they win, the workers at Stewart-Warner will be able to take control of their union and fight for a decent contract and against company harassment.

They're up against a large and powerful corporation which has shown itself to be sophisticated and ruthless in its anti-labor tactics. To make things tougher they have to take on the union, too, whose local officials have no scruples about collaborating with the company against the workers.

It's no easy battle. But it's one that has got to be – and will be won. □

– Submitted by the Stewart-Warner Employees

Treasure Island

Supermarket of the 80's

Everything from Tide to Cous Cous

Paperback Novels | School Supplies

1120 W. Wilson | **3405 W. Bryn Mawr**

Nursing Books

Posters

Becks **BOOK STORE**

6501 N. Sheridan | **56 E. Chicago**

Jr. College Texts | T.V. College Books

G.E.D. Books & English as a Second Language books

Community Responds To Political Attack On Children's Lunch Program

(Chicago, Ill.) In a matter of hours the news flashed across Chicago.

The Sunday August 19 edition of the Lerner *Sunday Star* carried a front page exclusive by Les Sussman. The article detailed an investigation that Sussman and State Rep. William Marovitz have conducted into a free lunch program in Uptown. The article charged that the program was "being poorly administered by the Uptown People's Community Service Center, 1222 W. Wilson, the local sponsor," and that the program was "vastly underused at a great cost to taxpayers." Sussman noted that the charges had "drawn the anger" of State Rep. William Marovitz (D.-12) and Ald. Ralph Axelrod (46th) and "both had called for an immediate investigation by state authorities."

The weekend editions of the *Chicago Tribune* carried a similar story by columnist Jeff Lyon. Lyon had also been a party to the "investigation." However, as a *Tribune* writer, as opposed to a Lerner writer like Sussman, Lyon is a big fish in a little toilet. He could say things that Sussman couldn't. And he did. According to Lyon, "You've been popping for lunch all summer for a bunch of people who never ate it... not too many poor kids appear to have been getting fed...an outfit called the Uptown People's Community Service Center...founded in part by Helen Shiller gets paid over $800 a day...but Uptown People's workers have been selling the lunches on the street, to adults and anyone else who will buy them."

Thanks to Lyon everybody learned that the real questions were "Is the political opposition in the 46th ward and the 12th legislative district ripping off the taxpayers and selling food to hungry children." Marovitz and Axelrod were so angry that they were calling a press conference for the following Sunday morning to release documentation of the abuse and renew their demand for an investigation by authorities.

The main speaker at the press conference was Rep. Marovitz but the host was Hal Wallace, Hollywood movie maker, high-priced campaign media specialist and partner of Victor DeGrazia. (The word had gone out in the beginning of August that Marovitz had hired DeGrazia to run his re-election campaign.)

Axelrod and Marovitz cried "rip-off" for the cameras. But state inspectors reported: "Uptown lunch sites have fewer problems than other sites in the city of Chicago...other sites serve fewer children and have more problems."

After a few minutes, Marovitz stepped to the lectern and read a short, well-written statement. He did well in acting upset and the words came out as if he'd written them himself, "I had heard that the persons...representing the community organization in charge of the program, distributed only a small number of food packages and sold the rest, pocketing the money so obtained. What I saw confirmed this...it is apparent that a situation exists here in which not only the taxpayers are being ripped off but the school children as well."

Marovitz talked, while Wallace ran the projector and the press watched a four minute film. The film showed a woman taking about 15 lunches from some youth and handing them something that could have been money. He then paraded out four "machine" mamas who he said were "citizens from the community" who had complained to him as well as the "witnesses" of the abuse of federal funds.

Upstairs in the same hotel, Helen Shiller had called a press conference to respond to the accusations. Explaining that the unauthorized action of a lunch program site supervisor had allowed lunches to be carried from the site on one or two occasions, Ms. Shiller exposed a "set-up" perpetrated by the Axelrod organization aimed primarily at discrediting her. Joann Nix, the woman buying the lunches in the film works for Tony Enderle. She manages the Malden Arms for Enderle and is around election days to pass out the wine money for Tony, the precinct captain in the precinct. The tenants that Nix was "buying the lunches" for are among the most victimized and degraded in the city of Chicago. Their monthly aid assistance checks are ripped from their hands before they can open the envelopes. The building that Nix manages for Enderle is in court and the fines add up to $34 thousand.

Shiller pointed out that "Nix offered money to the youth workers for the lunches and set them up for the cameras. Seeing a chance to make a buck, obviously they bought the set-up. . .The site supervisor became aware that on one occasion some lunches had been sold. She reprimanded the teenagers and to her knowledge it did not occur again." Helen explained the way in which the lunch program was funded and made it clear that the Uptown People's Community Service Center had to draw on its own funds to keep the program going the last two years.

In both press conferences it was made clear that neither Marovitz nor Axelrod, nor any of the "citizens from the community" who appeared on the Bill and Ralph show, ever made any attempt to contact the Uptown People's Community Service Center or any law enforcement officials or state authorities before they called the television cameras in.

The following week investigators and inspectors from half a dozen agencies and two cities converged on the lunch program. They studied the lunch program's four sites for three days in a row. When they were done inspecting and investigating they wrote their reports:

"Uptown lunch sites have fewer problems than other lunch sites in the city of Chicago...other sites take all day to serve fewer children indoors and have more problems."

About the only thing left to say to Sussman, Axelrod, Marovitz and company is "Go pimp your wares somewhere else fellas, nobody's interested around here."

The Editors

Site:
Broadway & Gordon Terrace
(Broadway tot lot)
attendance: 171
meals delivered: 220
meals to children: 191
(20 second helpings)

Site:
4500 Magnolia
(Sunnyside Mall)
attendance: 197
meals delivered: 200
meals to children: 220
(23 second helpings)

Site:
Malden and Leland
attendance: 181
meals delivered: 200
meals to children: 200
(19 second helpings)

Site:
Kenmore and Buena
attendance: 183
meals delivered: 220
meals to children: 216
(32 second helpings)

Glenn B Mooney

Field Representative
Food and Nutrition Program
State Board of Education

Summary of state inspectors' reports after monitoring the lunch program.

I, Joann Nix who resides at 4727 North Malden, Chicago, Illinois 60640 hereby declare that I have personally purchased lunch (food) packages and services from the daily lunch program site administered by the Uptown People's Service Center. Said site is located at the Tot Lot at Malden and Leland Street in the City of Chicago. I further state that I have purchased lunches since the being of the program in late May and every day since then they (lunches) have been made available. Signed and sworn by me in front of two witness this day of August 17th, 1979.

Joann Nix

4727 N. Malden

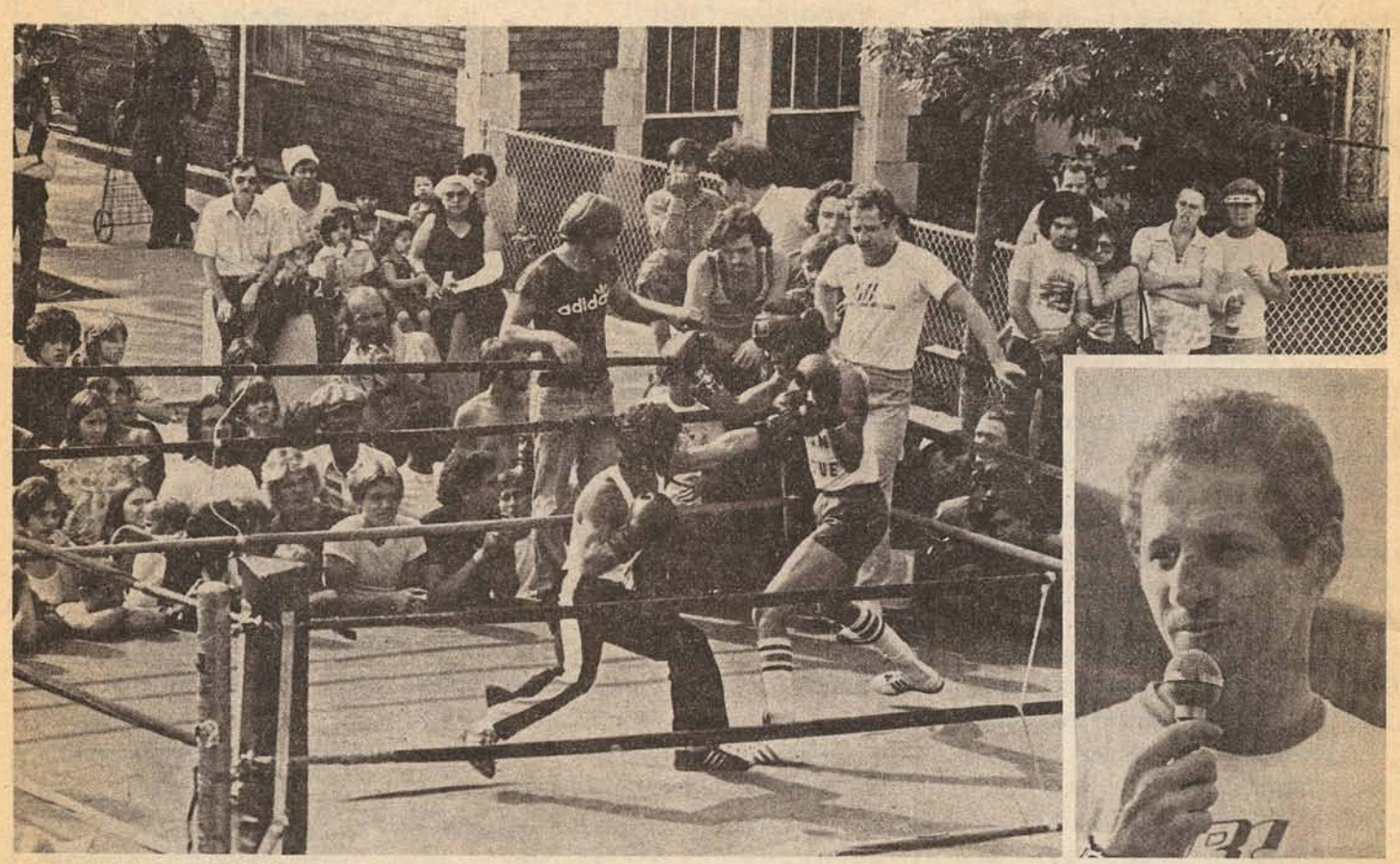
Chicago, IL. 60640

Witnessed by:
Lesley Sussman

Mary F. Sajdak

The "affidavit" submitted by Joanne Nix. This statement provided Marovitz's only documentation of the sale of lunches. As you can see, witness Nix states that she had been buying lunches since May. However, the lunch program did not begin until the end of June.

SURVIVAL DAY — 1979



Over 1,000 people were on the Sunnyside Mall Saturday August 25 to celebrate Uptown's Fourth Annual Survival Day. Johnny Lira brought the brothers from the Union League Boys Club as an hour-long exhibition of boxing, in a regulation ring, drew the largest crowd and several youth from Uptown put on the gloves to the cheers of family and friends. Music was provided by Tumbleweed, Fiddlin' Suzi Zarb, Johnny Grey and Ozark Blue with Sam Green. Helen Shiller spoke on problems and enemies confronting the community. A chicken dinner was served to all in attendance. The program was also highlighted by a raffle and youth poster contest. Top: Boxing exhibition; (inset) Johnny Lira. Bottom left: Suzi Zarb and Johnny Grey; Above: Tumbleweed.

RTA: Fare Hike Rejected By Labor and Community Groups

(Chicago, Ill.) The only public hearing scheduled by the RTA in Chicago on the proposed CTA fare hike, was held Wednesday evening, August 8, at the Hyatt Regency. Under the original proposal unveiled by RTA Board Chairman Lewis Hill and the RTA Board, the basic CTA fare would go up to 70 cents (10 cents more for a transfer). The 40 percent increase would make Chicago's bus fare the highest in the nation.

More than 350 people assembled at the public hearing to voice fierce opposition to the fare increase. Those who spoke against the fare hike included state senators and representatives, transit union workers and spokespersons from various community organizations.

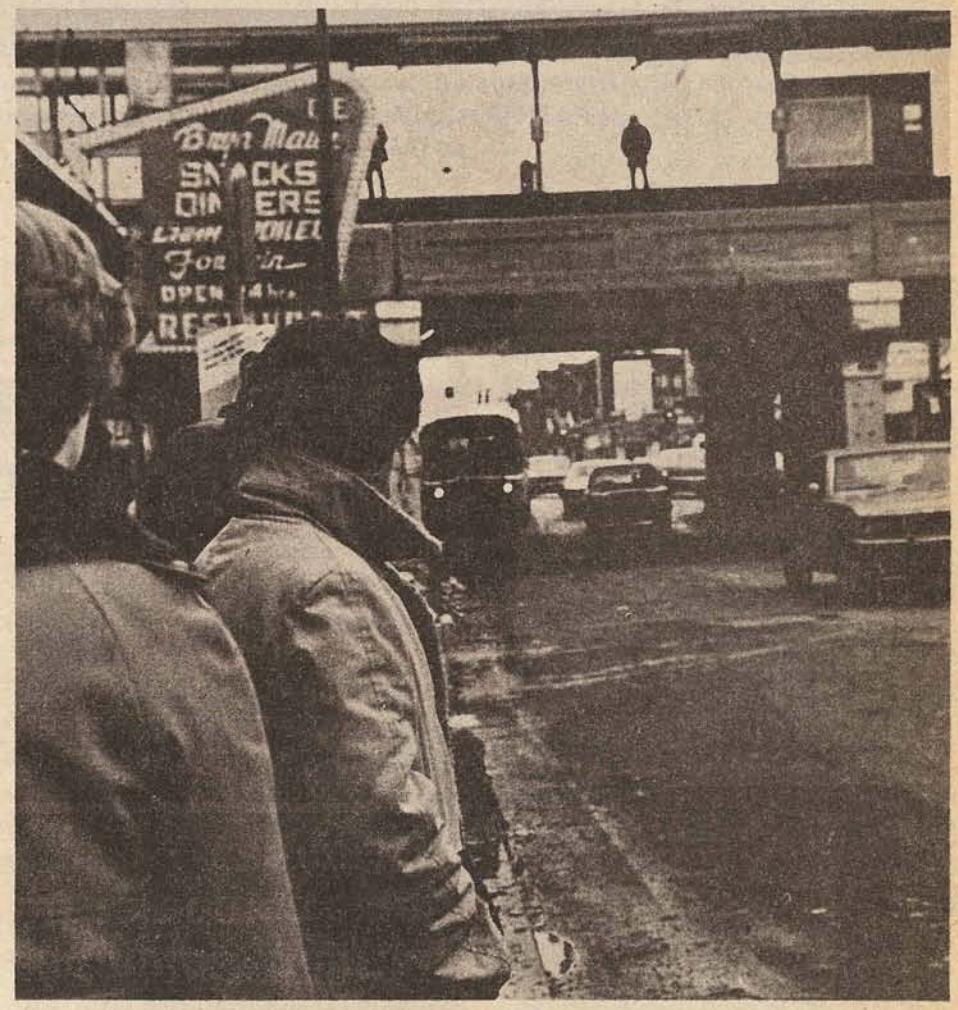
The Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 issued a public statement against the fare increase. Representing over 8,000 CTA bus drivers, bus maintenance workers and general office workers, the union opposed the fare increase for two main reasons. First, they cited the massive waste in the CTA's administration ($10 million to $90 million annually). Second, the state legislature is scared to increase taxes and therefore, won't act responsibly to finance mass transportation.

A report prepared by the transit workers union shows massive waste in excess desk jobs and bosses' jobs at the CTA. Also, an alarming rise in on-the-job employee injuries has led to increased costs.

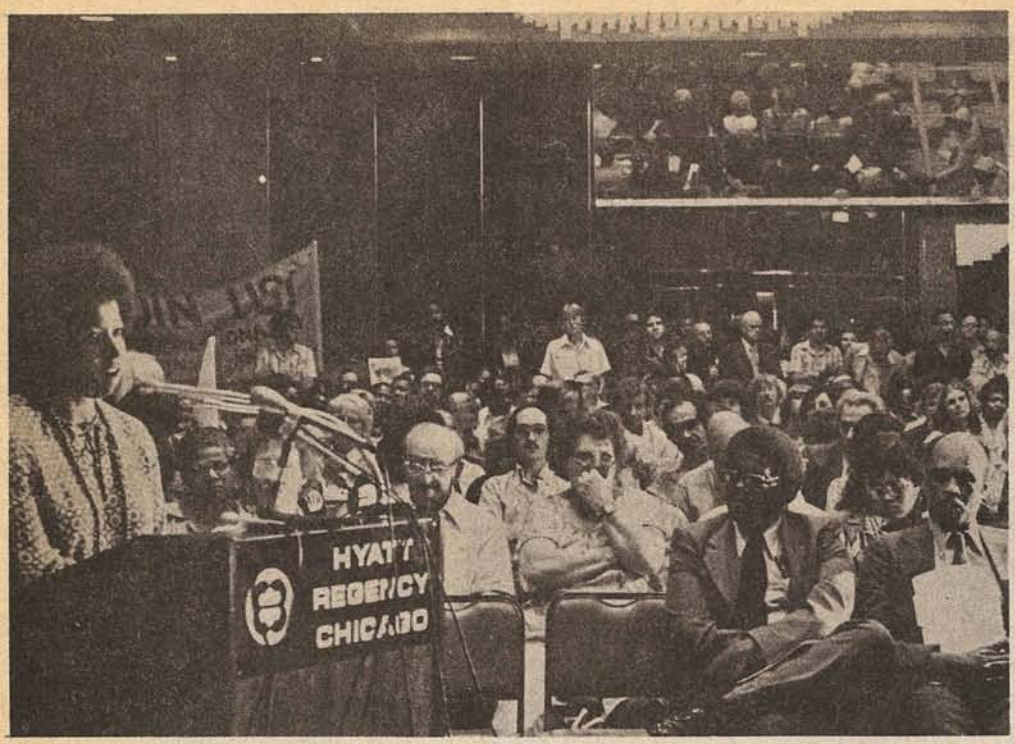
The union charged the CTA management with displaying a cocky, self-assuming attitude. No matter how wrong the CTA bosses are, they are protected by political sponsors and clever public relations efforts.

Highlighting the hearing was a large delegation from PATH (People Against the Transit Hike) which presented 10,000 signatures on a petition protesting the fare hike. They asked for more meetings with the people who ride the trains and buses, the people who suffered and froze last winter, lost jobs, waited for trains that didn't stop and who now ride trains and buses where the windows don't open and there is no air conditioning. Chairman Lew Hill refused to answer when the delegation demanded to know if there would be more meetings with the people.

Several well-respected elected representatives spoke out against the



Last winter hundreds of thousands of Chicagoans braved cold winds, ice and snow three feet deep waiting for hours for buses to take them to and from work. A report done for the transit workers union suggests that the cause might lie in "excess desk jobs and bosses' jobs" at the CTA.



State Rep. Carol Mosely Braun blasted the proposed fare hike explaining that mass transit was clearly the best way to save energy, as PATH (People Against the Transit Hike) presented 10,000 signatures (right) to back up their demand for more hearings.

fare increases at the hearing. They included U.S. Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, State Senators Harold Washington and Richard Newhouse, State Representatives Carol Mosely Braun and Barbara Flynn Currie. Ellis Levin also spoke against the fare hike, representing the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization.

At a time of rapid inflation and a freeze of 7 percent increase in wages, a 40 percent fare hike is outrageous.

State Senator Washington who originally supported the RTA because he thought it would stabilize fares, help people get to jobs in the suburbs and improve safety standards, stated that he has seen no improvement in services. He spoke against the fare increase.

State Senator Richard Newhouse, an opponent of RTA from the beginning, said that people in his district cannot pay the present fare, citing more than 40 percent unemployment there. He charged that appalling poverty and unemployment exist in a city and state with massive wealth.

Barbara Flynn Currie and Carol Mosely Braun, both state representatives from the 24th district stated that it is critical to use mass transportation during a time of energy shortages. Representative Currie also argued that the public should not be "bludgeoned" with a 40 percent fare increase while the CTA maintained inferior facilities for its riders. Representative Levin pointed to the discrimination against the city resident. He urged that uniform fares be established within the city and on the I.C. (Illinois Central) trains.

The blizzard of '79 brought an outcry from the Black community over discriminatory closing of "L" stations in Black neighborhoods. Charges of discriminatory practices by the CTA in providing transit service, brought by Division 241 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, have prompted an investigation by the Federal Urban Mass Transit Administration (UMTA). A clear example of the CTA's racist policies includes cutbacks in services on the Ashland Avenue and Sedgwick lines while it runs nearly empty buses from Union Station and the Chicago-Northwestern Station for the benefit of suburbanites commuting to the Loop.

The collapse of the CTA during the blizzard of '79 has been well publicized. Failings in CTA management were primarily responsible.

A basic design error in one group of newer "L" cars allowed snow to enter the motors causing many motors to break down. The entire rapid transit system was without snow plows because two electric engines equipped with plows had been sold. Other "L" snow plowing cars had been scrapped but not replaced. In spite of the overabundance of managerial personnel, the bus system was nearly beyond supervisory control during the snow emergency.

The proposed fare hike, according to one CTA bus driver, George Mohas, represents another racist move to exploit the people. The additional money collected by RTA he stated, would end up in the vaults of big banks like First National and Continental where it would draw interest. Those banks, he said, do business with the racist government of South Africa.

People at the public protest indicated that they would like to know

Ridership is up 8 percent since April but the CTA is jamming more people into the same number of cars and buses.

where Mayor Jane Byrne stands on the issue of the RTA fare increase. "Her Honor" should remember what happened to Bilandic when he let the RTA shut down stations along the Dan Ryan during last winter's blizzard!

"The RTA's leadership should get in tune with the conditions facing people in the nation. At a time of rapid inflation, a projected recession of mass proportions and a freeze of 7 percent increases in wages at the request of President Carter, a 40 percent fare hike is outrageous. Ridership on the CTA has increased 8 percent since the April gas shortage, bringing the RTA more money. But as the people point out, the CTA is jamming more people into the same number of overcrowded, substandard 'L' cars and buses – 'the sardine express.'"

By the end of August community pressure was mounting across the city. RTA finance chairman William O'Malley offered a compromise: increase CTA fares to 60 cents. The RTA postponed its Sept. 1 deadline for fare increases and told its smaller member agencies that they would have to find ways to cut costs. O'Malley pointed to large RTA and CTA budgets for advertising that duplicate each other. □

by Bev King

Bev King is a student at Shimer College in Chicago.

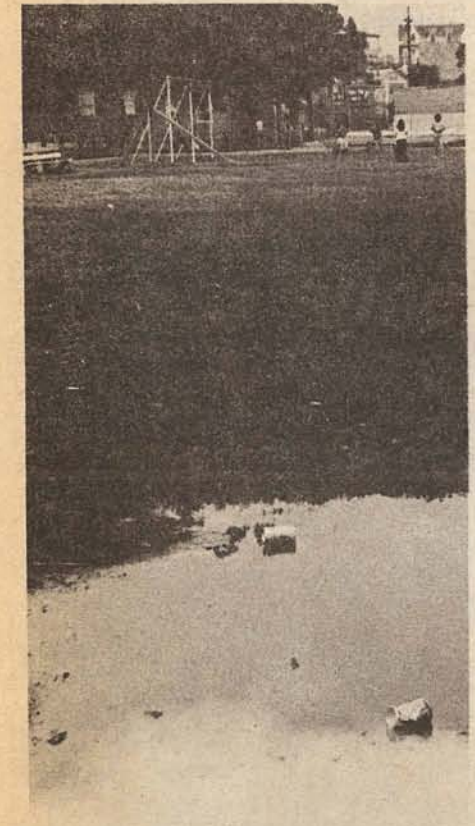
Neighborhood Group Backs Down Park District

(Chicago, Ill.) Eckhart Park, at Chicago and Noble, had been declining for years. The neighborhood is predominatly Latino. Park Director Joseph Petito was politically appointed (he owes his job to Ed Kelly). He had been at the park for years, overseeing its 10 year deterioration. Petito had been heard many times, calling the Latino youth from the neighborhood "bums." Long time residents had seen programs cut back, grass and playing fields fall into disrepair. Garbage piled up in the field house. The community had organized protests in recent years. Each time Petito and ward boss Matt Bieczat had been able to head them off.

When neighborhood representatives presented Biezcat with 200 signatures on a petition demanding that something be done about the conditions of the parks, Biezcat responded quickly. He informed the residents that the petition was meaningless because some of the signatures belonged to people who "weren't voters."

In mid-June the *Chicago Sun-Times* began to report the findings of its investigation into conditions

Eckhart Park (above) had been declining for years.



Ed Kelly's man, Joe Petito, supervised, while programs were cut back and fields and equipment fell into disrepair.

in 100 parks in the city of Chicago. What they reported only confirmed what 60 percent of Chicago had already known for years. Kelly has systematically abandoned parks across the city while pouring millions of dollars into parks in the 47th ward, the base of his huge political empire.

The newspaper series offered the examples of Welles Park at Montrose and Western. The 15 acre park has more paid staff than Humboldt, Garfield, Columbus and Douglas Parks combined (totaling over 200 acres).

Welles Park, a 15 acre park, has more paid staff than Humboldt, Garfield, Columbus and Douglas Parks combined (totaling over 200 acres.)

Early this summer, Barrio Unido, a local community group, took up the issue of the condition of Eckhart Park. KEEP STRONG spoke with organizers of the group.

KEEP STRONG: What did you have to do to force the city to improve conditions at Eckhart Park?

BARRIO UNIDO: We did two things. We sent some people with a camera to check out Chase Park in the 47th ward. We made up a poster comparing the beautiful facilities at Chase Park to the dilapidation at Eckhart Park. We circulated a petition and called a meeting around three demands. First, we wanted more programs and staff at Eckhart Park (on the same level with parks in White neighborhoods). Secondly, we wanted to replace Petito with a supervisor from the community. Finally, we think the community should have control of the programs at the park.

KEEP STRONG: What happened next?

BARRIO UNIDO: We had barely started circulating the petition when the Park District announced that Petito had suddenly "decided to resign." The new supervisor showed up at our community meeting which was well attended by people from all sections of the community. Miss Maher (the new supervisor) announced a number of new programs including boxing, wrestling, co-ed swimming, ceramics and day care. Now a community advisory board has been set up to supervise the park.

KEEP STRONG: Why do you think the community was able to succeed this time?

BARRIO UNIDO: The situation was different this time. The political heat was on Ed Kelly because of the *Sun-Times* series and his disputes with Byrne over who would control the jobs in the Park District. The struggle to get decent city services in this neighborhood continues. But people have learned that when we take action at the right time and are organized, we can win. □

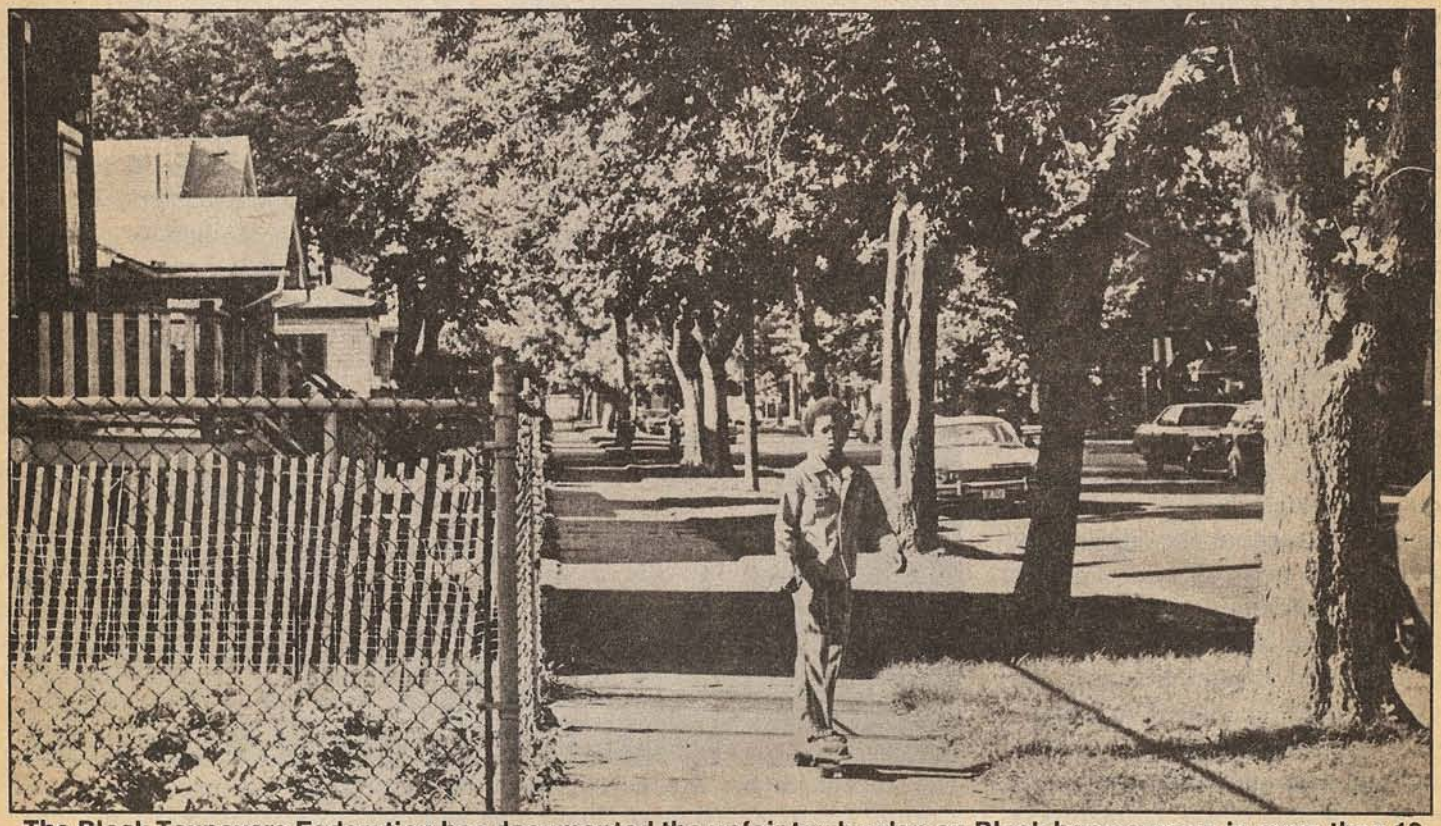
Black Taxpayers Revolt : Charge Assessor Discriminates

(Chicago, Ill.) In July the Cook County Assessor's Office mailed out more than $1.3 billion in tax bills. According to the newly organized Black Taxpayers Federation, Black homeowners are getting taxed higher than Whites for comparable property. When State Senator Harold Washington, director of the federation, calls "discrimination in tax assessments – *the issue* –" he means that over a period of years Black homeowners in Chicago and Cook County have been paying tens of millions of dollars more in property taxes.

The federation has documented the problem. Last spring University of Illinois Professor Arthur Lyons and a team of statisticians compared tax assessments in six Black neighborhoods with comparable properties in White neighborhoods. "His findings demonstrate beyond the shadow of a doubt what has been suspected for years," said Senator Washington in an interview with KEEP STRONG, "that in areas such as Lawndale and West Englewood Blacks were paying almost twice as much as Whites were paying for comparable properties (a $20,000 home, for example) in Bridgeport."

The federation's protest is aimed at the county assessor's office headed by Thomas C. Hynes. According to Senator Washington, the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs could be given the power to "come in and order an entire re-assessment of all property in Cook County. They could do that and end this whole business right away. We've written to the governor and asked the department to do that and so far they have not." Senator Washington believes that because

In Lawndale and West Englewood, Blacks were paying almost twice as much as Whites were paying for comparable properties.



The Black Taxpayers Federation has documented the unfair tax burden on Black homeowners in more than 19 different neighborhoods throughout Chicago and Cook County.

of "the power of the Cook County Democratic Party we weren't able to get anything passed in the legislature."

The federation's campaign to organize Black homeowners has been active in 19 of the 21 predominantly Black neighborhoods in Chicago and Cook County. The federation's board includes directors chosen by the communities themselves. "For example, in Auburn Gresham," says Senator Washington, "We have the Auburn Gresham Community Block Club. We have Park Manor, Roseland, Hyde Park, West Englewood, the Black sections of Evanston, Lawndale and Garfield. All these areas have directors of their own choice."

State Senator Harold Washington believes Black homeowners being taxed twice as much as Whites "ties into the whole pattern and masterplan we see in Chicago."

Organizers believe the fact of Black homeowners being taxed twice as much as Whites "ties into the whole pattern and masterplan we see in Chicago." Senator Washington points to programs like Dearborn Park, the Chicago 21 Plan and urban renewal in north side communities like Uptown. "It ties in, of course, with redlining which is a pattern we find throughout the city in predominantly poor, Latino, Black and poor White neighborhoods. The last two mayors of this city have ignored the growth and development of the city of the neighborhoods to the benefit of the downtown money and commercial interests. Taxing Black homeowners higher than Whites could be seen as part of an overall plan to debilitate the Black community and bleed them dry, force them to give up prime land so they can bring in commercial property and middle income people to populate these sections."

Although the overtaxing of Black property owners has been pointed out in other major cities, there never has been as thorough a study as the one done by Dr. Lyons here in Chicago. The federation plans to use the findings and additional evidence as the basis for a class action suit that will soon be filed in U.S. District Court. The lawsuit calls for a thorough investigation of the assessor's methods for taxing property in Cook County and compensation for homeowners who have been overtaxed. The federation has approached the U.S. Attorney's office requesting an investigation of what "might be a massive violation of civil rights of Black property owners." According to Senator Washington, the U.S. Attorney's office indicated they would join the suit and, therefore, would not pursue the criminal aspects of the charge.

The mounting public pressure created by the federation's campaign has led the county assessor's office to name a three-man review board to re-examine the assessor's computer program for tax assessment. Critics explain that one of the three is a man who designed the program in the first place. Senator Washington says that Hynes' office has come out with some kind of report but the federation has not received it, and Professor Lyons maintains that crucial information from the assessor's office has been withheld from him.

Until the issue is resolved in the courts or through mounting public pressure to open the assessor's office to state investigation, Black homeowners will continue to pay higher taxes on their property. And while the city council of Chicago does not have legal authority to force the assessor to act, organizers believe they could get a resolution passed calling upon the state and county to re-assess property in the city. According to Senator Washington, "There has been absolutely not a verbal word from the city council or any of the Black aldermen."□

Organizers for the Black Taxpayers Federation say that the offices of County Assessor Thomas Hynes has withheld crucial information from Professor Lyons' study group.

The Removal Of The Cherokee Nation

Looking Back

by Eugene Feldman

The Cherokee Nation and its hardworking peace loving people, its farms, cities, villages, newspaper, schools, national congress, constitution, laws, courts and all of its institutions were destroyed in the 1800's to make way for settlers and slaveowners. The Cherokee's country was then to be divided among the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia and Alabama.

Even in the early days of the Revolutionary War when our own country was fighting for liberty there were many who fought against the Cherokee to deprive them of their liberty and their land.

Here are the words of Captain Moore, an American captain who led a force of men against the Cherokees and captured a number of them. His men were anxious to kill them and take over their farms. Only by promising that the Cherokees would be made their slaves would Moore's men listen to him and not use their rifles again to take lives. So here the Cherokees, chased off their lands, were made slaves of the very people who stole them by force. This is how Captain Moore described it:

"I allowed that it was our duty to guard them to prison or some place of safe custody 'till we got the approbation of Congress whether they should be sold slaves or not. And the greater part (of the men) swore bloodily that if they were not sold for slaves on the spot, they would kill and scalp them immediately. . . ."

The removal is known as the Trail of Tears, because men, women, children, the aged, the infirm, the pregnant — were compelled to walk thousands of miles in rain, snow, cold weather and cross rivers and creeks.

Sequoia developed the 85 symbols of the Cherokee language allowing the nation to publish its own newspaper.

In 1825 the Cherokee Nation was well established. Never, that this writer can remember, have the institutions of the Cherokees and their lives been shown accurately in our movies. Instead we have seen Native Americans portrayed as "savages." Yet here is what a visitor to the Cherokee Nation reported in 1825. He was the Reverend David Brown:

"Schools are increasing. . . .The Nation had no debt, the revenue was in a flourishing condition; a printing press was soon to be established and a national library and museum were in contemplation."

From other sources we learn that there were a number of prosperous villages, well tended farms with crops and livestock and commerce. Here was a nation with its own congress, laws and courts. Yet the state of Georgia refused to respect them or recognize them. Instead, Georgia made a law saying that "no Cherokee shall be deemed a competent witness in any court. . .to which a White person may be party." It is also said that "No contract between a White person and an Indian (sic) should be binding unless established by the testimony of two White

Looking Back

continued

witnesses." So Cherokees had no rights that White Georgians were bound to respect.

In 1832 the Cherokee Nation sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to protest the many injustices inflicted upon them. Chief John Ross along with some others prepared a memorial which was presented to the United States Congress. The memorial lambasted the land grabbers and their force and violence:

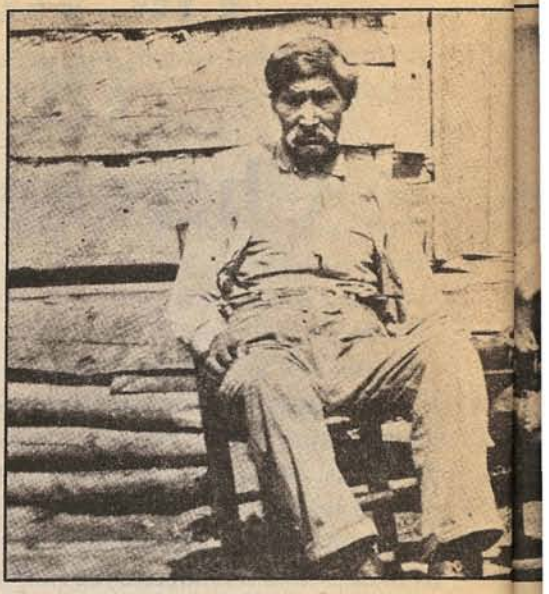
"Cupidity has fastened its eye upon their lands, and is seeking by force and every variety of expression and wrong to expell them from their lands and their homes and to tear them from all that has become endeared to them."

The memorial said "unfit persons" were making their lives "intolerably wretched." It also protested the fact that state and federal governmental authorities refused to recognize and respect Cherokee National right. But the United States, encouraged by slaveowners and profiteers, had plans to remove the Cherokee, take over their lands and participate in windfall profits.

The Cherokee opposition to this plan was the main reason why the delegation led by Chief Ross was in Washington. But those who favored and sponsored the plan of removal had Chief Ross arrested. His home was taken by the State of Georgia and given away in the state lottery. His family was cruelly evicted.

The Cherokee National Newspaper *The Phoenix* was suppressed because it, too, opposed the removal plan. This newspaper had been made possible when a Cherokee by the name of Sequoia developed symbols for 85 principal syllables of the Cherokee language. These were readily learned by the Cherokee Nation and a press was set up in their capital city of New Echota. It was here that *The Phoenix* was printed and distributed. But in spite of the American principle of freedom of the press it was suppressed when it advocated the rights of the Cherokees.

When the legitimate officers of the Cherokee Nation refused to go along with the removal plan the United States then made a "treaty" with a small group of opportunists who dared call themselves representatives of their people. The "treaty" called for removal of the Cherokees to Oklahoma territory. But the "treaty" was immediately repudiated by the Cherokee people. The removal, a tragic part of American history, is known as the "Trail of Tears" because men, women, children, the aged, the infirm, the pregnant – were compelled to walk thousands of miles in rain, snow, cold weather and cross rivers and creeks. Many died because they could not endure the elements and the cruelties.



President Van Buren ordered General Winfield Scott to proceed with a large force of soldiers to the Cherokee lands to effect the removal. The general had a regiment of artillery, infantry, six companies of dragoons and a further authorization of 4,000 militia men and volunteers. The general, commanding as many as 7,000 troops moved into Cherokee country in May, 1838. Stockades were built at various points and Cherokees were herded

Schools are increasing...the Nation had no debt...a Nation with its own congress, laws and courts. The Cherokee Grand Jury is pictured at left.

(Left) Cherokee family in front of dwelling in North Carolina, 1912; (Above) *The Phoenix*, printed in the nation's capital, New Echota, was suppressed because it opposed the removal plan. (Right) J.A. Scales, Chief Justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court.

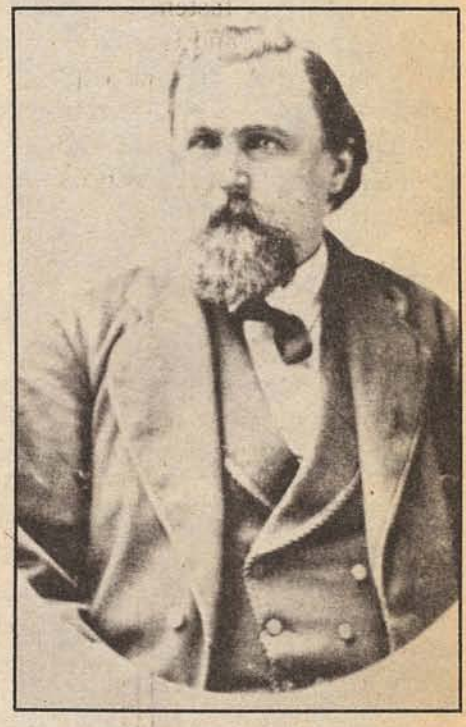
into them. The stockades also served as garrisons. From these points men with bayonets went to every small cabin in the mountains and forced its occupants to be their prisoners. Here is one account of this harsh roundup:

"Cherokee men — the young and the old — the strong and the weak — were seized in their fields, along the trails, on their doorsteps, besides their hearths. Cherokee women were jerked from their spinning wheels, their looms and even from their beds. Children were seized at play. Families at dinner were startled by the sudden gleam of bayonets in the doorway and rose up to be driven with blows and oaths along the weary miles of trail that led to the stockades."

Meanwhile a lawless rabble, a greedy lawless rabble, followed the army as they removed the Cherokees. These money hungry men stole the Cherokee cattle and homes and what they did not want they put to the torch.

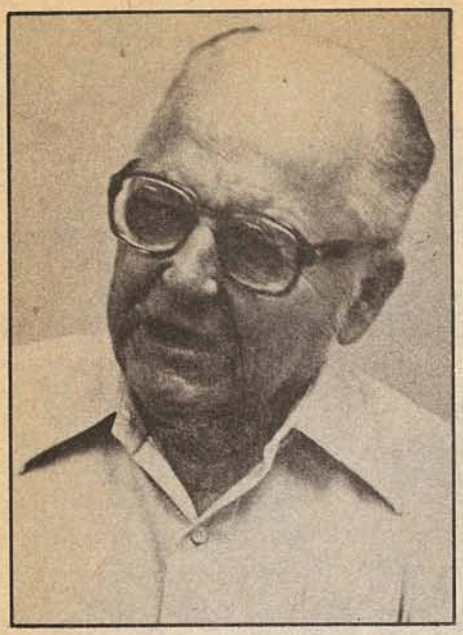
What followed was indeed a trail of tears. Everyday there were burials for those who could not endure the tortured march. Children were born and children died along the trail. Frozen rivers were crossed and meal-less days and nights endured. The demons of illness, infection, disease followed the long line of the weary whose only "crime" was that they had lands in their home country coveted by the greedy.

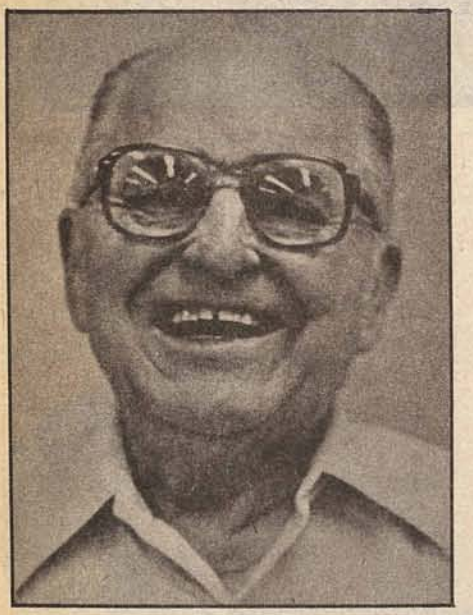
One small band of Cherokees did win the right to stay in their home in the North Carolina mountains. Chief Tsali, his sons and friends ran away by escaping from the soldiers. Later an agreement was made, a horrible agreement, that said if Chief Tsali, his brother and his two older sons, would be shot the rest of the Cherokee in that particular area could remain. And they still do today. No one has forgotten the bravery and the sacrifice made by these men who were shot. The Cherokees have not forgotten the trail of tears.



Today their struggle for their rights continues. It deserves the support of every democratic and decent minded American. Their campaign for rights represents only a part of the greater campaign still waged by all Native Americans. □

Eugene Feldman teaches history at Columbia College and is on the staff at the DuSable Museum.





Keep Strong Interview

"We Have A Long Way To Go"

An Interview with C. ALLEN MORROW Respected teacher, hungry student, senior activist, thorn in the side of Chicago's power structure.

C. Allen Morrow is a well-respected spokesman for senior citizens in Chicago and was a founding member of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization. Born in Clinton, Illinois he has lived in Chicago since 1922. In addition to his work with residents of CHA housing (he has been a resident of CHA housing for 17 years), Mr. Morrow serves as the vice president of United Seniors of Jane Addams Hull House and belongs to the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association and Pan-American Council. An avid teacher, Mr. Morrow is a part-time instructor at Truman College. He lives in the Edgewater community with his wife to whom he has been married for 56 years.

KEEP STRONG: You're a very active person, Mr. Morrow. I'm sure our readers would like to know how you got going and how you keep yourself so active.

"I said I would not serve unless it was a fight for all people, Blacks, Latinos, Whites. I would not have a lilly-White thing."

"For 19 years I've been a listener to International News Broadcasts for an average of an hour a day."

C. ALLEN MORROW: I am quite happy as I look back over my life remembering that in the Depression back in the 1930's I was out of work for nine and a half years. In those days we had a relief system which worked perfectly if you were a friend or relative of a ward committeeman or an alderman or somebody like that. Then you got everything. But if you were just a poor worker who was out of a job you got as little as possible. The caseworker and supervisor seemed to be in cahoots to try to force you to take the very least that could be given you.

It was my good fortune to tie into *"The Hunger Fighter,"* a magazine that was put out at the time. It told us what we were entitled to. If we could pay a nickel for it, as we waited for hours in the station, we got this little booklet which told us what we could additionally have, even coal pails — and overcoats if we had an outside job — other things that were kept strictly hidden, as far as the average person on relief was concerned. Now I think we have a much broader, much more humane way of taking care of the elderly, but it doesn't compare in any way with that which should be done.

We found out that Sweden, Scandinavia, England and the socialist countries take almost complete care of their elderly and that is not being done by the capitalist countries, not being done at all. And so, although I've never been a member of the Party, not even the Socialist Party, I will say my people were always Democrats in a sea of Republicans, but I am now convinced never having read *Das Kapital* or *Mein Kampf* that we have a long way to go to treat our elderly as well as the elderly are treated in other countries. It really gripes me, it really hurts me, yet it is the basis of my continuing fight at age 79 plus two weeks and will be until the last day of my life.

I think I made a transition to a socialist viewpoint when I was on a guard job for Burns, possibly 15 years ago. Words came to me on a job one night:

I See A World
I see a later, finer world,
Where every child upon its birth
Gets title clear to its full share
Of all the wealth of this rich earth.

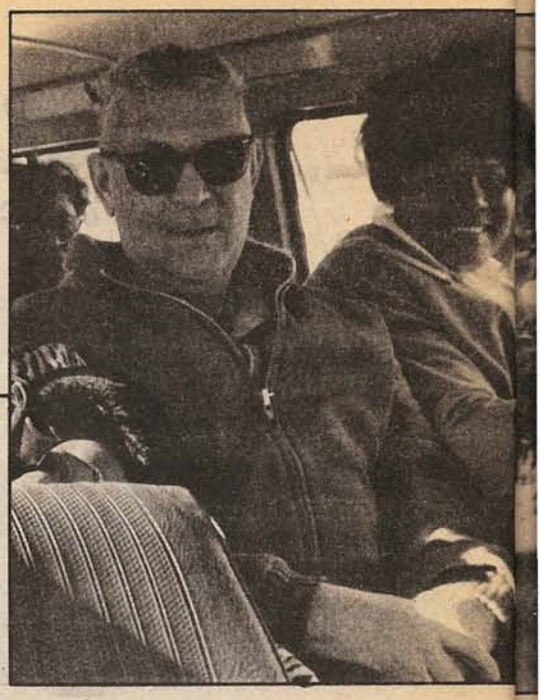
You might say that from that moment I accepted that as my philosophy.

I might say that very little distinguishes me from other men of my age and schooling except one thing. For 19 years I've been a listener to International News Broadcasts an average of maybe an hour a day. I remember listening to "The Voice of Vietnam" from Havana, Cuba. Some statements made there proved later to be true and they were — weeks and months later — repeated in our press.

KEEP STRONG: What do you think is the reason for the attitude that senior citizens have to be tended to? Is that to someone's advantage or why did that develop?

MORROW: Well, in my case since I've been 19 and a half years out of work because of three b---- named Hoover, Truman and Nixon, I would say that it gripes me to go down to the Mayor's Office of Senior Citizens (MOSC) and run into a woman who, I was told at one of these senior meetings, is going to handle housing. Her job in handling housing was to take people who came in needing apartments and refer them to CHA. When the people so referred were told that people were on the waiting list for seven, eight, nine years and hadn't gotten housing and they got discouraged at the prospect of such a long wait, many of them wouldn't live that long. When they went back to her she would tell them, "Here's a list of private apartments, apartments privately owned." When they went to these apartments and found out they were priced from $175 to $250, $275 which they could not af-

"I didn't think it quite fair that a major part of those funds be spent in giving senior citizens the runaround."



ford they would go back to her again with that story. "There's nothing more I can do for you."

And I asked her, "And how much do you get for this?" And she admitted that she got $1,000 a month. She's not a senior and I didn't think it quite fair that a major part of those funds be spent in giving senior citizens the runaround.

Just Thursday last week I attended the Lt. Governor's meeting for seniors which, incidentally, I suspect was devised to pull seniors away from the undemocratically controlled Chicago Metropolitan Area Senior Citizens Senate. A Mr. George Benjamin from the Illinois Department of Public Aid talked and gave us each a packet of materials about services for seniors.

The thing that bugs me is that it seems that most and I'm sure I'm right, that the fund of money from various grants and from public aid funds as well does not go 51 percent or better to seniors. It goes to, shall we say, young upstarts who manage to get a degree, let us say in gerontology, and who try to tell seniors what we're like, how we should react and how happy we should be with their services. We don't buy it at all. When the time comes that seniors will be asked for first, and only in the event after long advertising of positions open in various projects, various help agencies, that no senior can be secured, then a middle-aged person be taken and if that fails that a younger person finally be chosen.

KEEP STRONG: You've been active in the struggles of tenants living in public housing in Chicago. Could you give us some background on how you got involved in that?

MORROW: I became a member of the Chicago Housing Tenants Organization even before it was incorporated. We had a meeting, Jerome Hunt and Reverend Dolores Watkins, and there are others I can't remember or mention. Marion Stamps, she might have been there. We met at 22 W. 22nd Street and we started planning and building a tenants organization. But that caused the CHA to start a pipsqueak organization through the efforts of the American Arbitration Association – the local advisory and central advisory and made it very plain that these were *advisory* groups, advisory only.

Every attempt of the tenants ever since senior housing was devised or back of that, non-senior housing, was met with attempts to fight it and buy it off, buy its leaders off, and disrupt it, possibly by people who got in with the knowledge, consent and help of CHA. They disrupted meetings and became "but-ers." You know what "but-ers" are? "Splendid idea. . .but. . . ." That's what I call a "but-er" at meetings. It's my honest belief that's the story up until the time that the Chicago tenants tried to organize their own, active, militant organization.

KEEP STRONG: How do you evaluate the past performance of the Mayor's Office of Senior Citizens and what do you think seniors can expect from the new administration?

MORROW: I'm glad you asked me that question. Back in July or August of 1970 I believe, it could have been '70 or '71, two VISTA workers, one of them was Amanda Leyfeld and the other one was Henry Markowitz, called us together by phone at Hull House – Jane Addams Center. We held some meetings trying to start the fight for more hours on CTA at reduced rates. I believe it was our second meeting.

We met in the theater and after the first meeting I was elected as chairman and I said I would not serve unless it was a fight of all people, Blacks, Latinos, Whites, all races. I would not have a lilly-White thing. Who sneaks in the door but a fellow by the name of Ahrens with his lackey, the great Major Nordheimer. When he started to talk to us he said, "When I came into your

The time will come when seniors will be asked for first – to fill positions that are funded to help seniors.

"Every attempt of the tenants ever since senior housing was devised was met with attempts to fight it and buy it off, buy its leaders off and disrupt it."

organization here, when I came into this room I was confronted with a question, 'Are you fer us or agin' us?' " I happened to be the man who asked him that question. I had my doubts. I had my suspicions.

Well he showed us, that just the year before, in 1970 (so this had to be '71) that his office had conducted a survey of the senior citizens of Chicago, how much more they would ride the CTA if they got more hours. At that time, as you know, we were getting only from 9 'til 3 (9 in the morning 'til 3 in the afternoon). He said it took six of our best workers for six months at the cost of about $60 thousand approximately to find out that only about 12 percent of the seniors, only 12 percent would use extra hours. Later I was able to get hold of that book and I have it. Fortunately we didn't believe him.

We started actively, trying to contact people who could help us. We went to the finance committee of the city council. A fellow by the name of Keane was in charge of it, Alderman Keane. That was before they found out what a crook he was. We got an audience with him after the finance committee meeting. He said, "You know, I think you're damn fools." He said, "If I were you would strive for seven days a week, 24 hours a day, because those bums from CTA are going to come in and hold out their hand, and say, 'We want money for subsidizing high school boys and girls.' " And he said, "If you get anything more they're going to come in and want more money." So he said, "Why don't you start fighting for around the clock."

So we did. We wanted a conference with the mayor. We asked for it through our secretary, Madeline Bushbaum. She never was able to get us an appointment with the mayor. She referred us to this arrogant Ahrens. We went to his office at 223 N. Michigan. We were met by him with his lackey, the Major, again. And they still opposed our fight for more hours. We asked for a meeting of 12 people with him and there were about 35 or 40 people that showed up.

Well, when we started to present our fight to Ahrens, he said, "You are not a representative group." And I had one hand on the shoulder of Lola Mucker, a Black woman (president of the Parkway Senior Citizens Group), I had the other hand on the shoulder of Mr. Knuckles, a Black man, and I said, "We are a representative group, and we have been in business over 10 years (at that time)."

Shortly after the meeting started, I heard a noise of a motor, and I recognized the kind of motor right away. I started looking around and there, over behind a potted plant, we found a tape recorder. It was a seven inch reel tape recorder. We found it going merrily around and I demanded that it be stopped. It was not stopped. I demanded that we be given a copy of the what was said and we never got a copy. I've asked Ahrens for a copy half a dozen times. The day he was fired I called up and said, "Well, now can we have the tape?"

I hope this explains the reason that I, for one, have never cared too much for Ahrens. Friends of mine said he spent his time in the office making plans for all kinds of committees and all kinds of activities instead of going out to the people. I don't recall that he ever came out to Hull House after that.

That's why when I introduced myself to Idelle Goode up at the Northeast Caucus a few months back, I said to her, "I want to meet you. Ahrens was never my cup of tea." And she answered, "Will you let me be your cup of tea?" We'll wait and see if she really wants to be my cup of tea.

But before the election, before the primary I showed Jane Byrne a

"We have a long way to go to treat our elderly as well as the elderly are treated in other countries. It is the basis of my continuing fight at age 79 and will be until the last day of my life."

booklet put out by the Comptroller General of the United States. The book told about how in senior citizen buildings people were advanced from 4 months to 59 months above their place in line according to the date they applied. And she, Jane Byrne, seemed very interested in seeing that this no longer happened after she became mayor.

Well, I haven't heard from her. I loaned her a copy, exactly like this one I have. I haven't heard from her since the election and when I mentioned it to Idelle Goode, the new replacement for Robert Ahrens, well she said, "We really can't do anything about those that are already in, can we?" And I feel we can. I don't know if I'm going to be cast off on the side after having helped get Jane Byrne elected or not, but it doesn't matter because I can go along without their aid. Just barely, but I can go along.

KEEP STRONG: What advice would you offer others who are fighting to taste justice?

MORROW: Lately, I've been trying to finish a book called *The Causes of World War III.* At the very tail end on page 185 is a statement I like very much. "Democracy requires that those who bear the consequences of decisions have enough knowledge to hold the decision-makers accountable." I think that puts it better than I could say it. □

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S
MINI-U FALL 1979
"Where The Action Is"

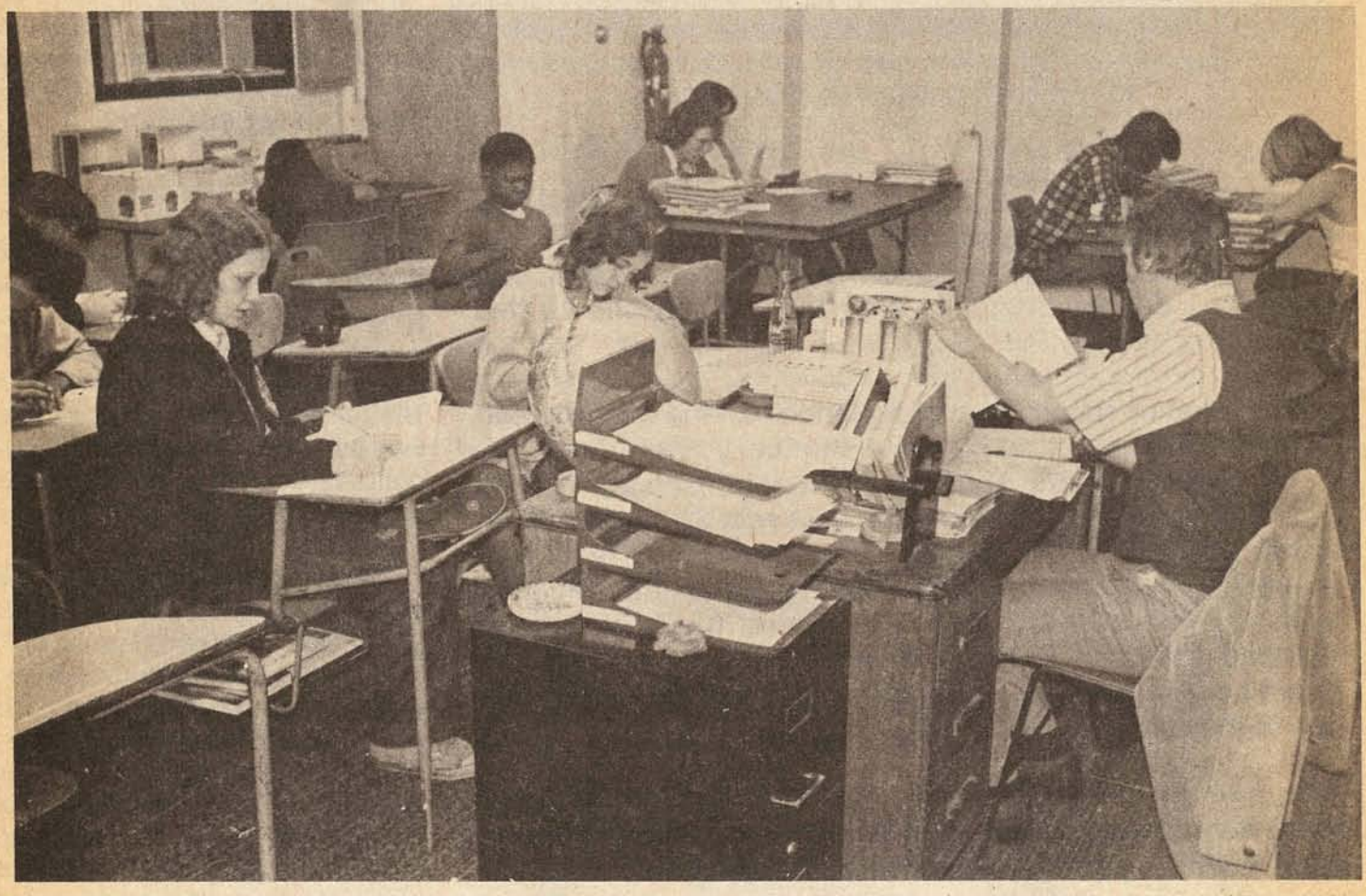
CLASSES START:	FEE:	TIMES:
September 11-November 1, 1979	*$5-$35*	*Late Afternoons, Evenings Saturday Mornings*

- *Over 168 non-credit courses of varying interests*
- *Qualified teachers*
- *Convenient location and parking*
- *Low-tuition cost*
- *Discount for UNI Alumni, students, staff, faculty and senior citizens*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Northeastern Illinois University
Office of Continuing Education
5500 N. St. Louis Avenue • Chicago, Illinois 60625
583-4050 Extension 392

CHICAGO SCHOOLS



Dorothea Oliver, Joann Jacobsen and Maria Martinez know Chicago schools. Their combined experience with the school system is over 40 years and they have a great deal to say. If you want to know why the average 6th grader reads like an 8-year-old and the Board of Education withholds information from the Office of Civil Rights, read this report.

Can They Serve The Children?

This September more than 32,000 children will enter kindergarten in elementary schools across the city and become part of a total enrollment of more than 475,000 students who will be attending Chicago public schools this year.

What kind of educational experience can the children and parents of Chicago's racially and ethnically diverse communities expect? Facts about the state of Chicago public school education are well known. Last year 25 percent of all eighth graders in the public schools did not read well enough to go on to high school. Another well-publicized fact: more recently over $22 million in federal funds have been withheld from the Chicago Board of Education until the Board comes up with a satisfactory plan for the desegregation of the schools.

To find the answers to these questions and others KEEP STRONG visited three different neighborhoods and talked to parents whose children attend elementary schools.

Brenneman School

Joann Jacobsen and Ellen Bell send their children to the Brenneman Elementary School, 4251 N. Clarendon in Uptown. Here are some of their comments about the school and the education their children receive:

Joann Jacobsen: "When Margaret started school she knew how to spell her name, which is a hard name, 'Margaret,' and she knew how to color in the lines. But she was bringing home papers from school that wasn't like what she was doing before she went. I don't know if they discovered that she was smart and they'd ignore her, but she didn't seem like she learned anything in school. There were about 25 in her class.

"About the principal....I had some run-ins with him because of my son, Michael. He goes to the Middle School now, but he used to go to Brenneman. They said I used it as an excuse, but he is hyperactive and even goes to a heart specialist. His mind just goes too fast. He even has trouble using a pencil. The doctor explained it in medical terms, but I really don't understand.

"They need more special education. Most of the kids in special ed — their problem is reading. I think if they could read they could go on and do the other subjects. I don't have a kid who can read good.

"In Iowa where I was before, the special ed classes were terrific, the ones here in Chicago just don't compare with the ones out there. In Iowa they take a real interest in and involve the parents. We had a meeting about once a month and sometimes more often if things came up.

"The teachers just don't understand. I think that a lot of teachers aren't educated to teach a child. But there are some who do. When I was in the hospital Michael's art teacher called me and she said she

had an interest in Michael who she thought showed an interest in art. She understood his problem. I think he released some of it in his artwork. But she only had him one day a week. If he only had another teacher who took an interest in him.

"I think they passed this tag along with him from Brenneman – that he was a troublemaker. They stamp it on his forehead and it kind of stays with him. You see, most of the teachers don't live around here. They don't understand some of the problems kids from this neighborhood have. Most of them only have one parent and a lot of kids only have a father which isn't easy either.

"They don't understand what being poor is. They live out there and probably don't have to worry what they are going to eat tomorrow. Or your kids want to go to the show or do something and you have to say no all the time. I don't think they understand or they don't want to.

"I think the teachers need to be educated according to the neighborhood they're going to work in. If more of the teachers would get out in the neighborhood and try to understand at least why a child has certain emotional problems, it would be better. I think emotional problems are a lot deeper and a lot more serious than measles and chicken pox.

"About summer school....Last year I looked into it and they had to be recommended by their teacher. They said they could take only so many because of the shortage of teachers. This was one of the disagreements I had with the principal over at Brenneman. He thought Michael was a troublemaker and he didn't want him in summer school. He said he didn't need it. I think they need afterschool reading programs. It's hard for a parent to be a teacher but I try the best I can. I don't understand why they don't teach people to read. I love it."

Joann Jacobsen: "I think the teachers need to be educated according to the neighborhood they're going to work in."

Ellen Bell: "I've been here since October. Ada Bell is 10 and Joseph is 6. He's going to special school now; he's not going back to Brenneman. There's nothing they could do for him there.

"But Ada Bell...her reading is really off. I just go by her scores. I help her at home and I know that some of the words she should know she don't and I know they should have had it there. I know she hasn't had them there so I take time to teach her. She'll be starting fifth grade. She got a G- and that was the highest she had all year and I don't think that's too good. She was reading at a grade level below hers. I think they should focus a little more on vocabulary, the spelling and pronunciation of the words, that is the key to reading. I don't know what system they have now."

WHEN A CHILD STOPS READING

BRENNEMAN

AGE	READING LEVEL	NATL. READING LEVEL	THE WIDENING GAP
7	2.5	2.8	
8	3.6	3.8	
9	4.0	4.8	
10	4.8	5.8	
11	4.1	6.8	

CHICAGO SCHOOLS

YATES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At Yates Elementary School located in the heart of Humboldt Park 79 percent of the 1,800 students are Latino while less than 20 percent of the school's 94 teachers are Hispanic. KEEP STRONG talked to Maria Martinez and Mary Lou Porrata whose children attend the school.

Maria Martinez: "I have five children and four go to the Yates School. They've been going there since they started kindergarten. One of my children was supposed to graduate but her reading level was not high enough. She had to go to summer school. So I went out and bought her a dress and everything for graduation and then a week before she was supposed to get the diploma she was told she wasn't going to get it with the other children. Finally she got it. At Yates there needs to be more Spanish-speaking teachers in the school. None of my children can read."

Mrs. Martinez also pointed to the problem with the lack of Spanish-speaking psychologists who are hired to test the children. Mary Lou Porrata, a worker at the St. Luke's Church also agrees:

"We don't have enough Spanish-speaking psychologists. If a child only speaks Spanish and it's an American talking English to them, of course they're not going to pass the test. Right away they think there is something wrong with them."

Both mothers commented on the lack of bilingual special education programs to serve Spanish-speaking children who have a disability such as hearing. Mary Lou observed:

Maria Martinez: "I have five children and four go to Yates School...there needs to be more Spanish-speaking teachers in the school. None of my children can read."

"We have a lot of Spanish-speaking kids staying at home because there is no special education for them. We had a meeting of parents from District 6 with the director for special education. She says there's a need for the program because children are just sitting around doing nothing, not learning anything.

"The probation officers visit kids who stay at home, who don't go to school and they try to put them back in school. But it doesn't work out, because if they have a disability with hearing or speech or a mental disability, how are they going to learn English so easily or go through a school where they just speak English? At home they're listening to Spanish from their parents and brothers and sisters.

"HEW has funds for bilingual special education but they are holding them back until the Board of Education comes up with a good program. They haven't come up with one yet; it's not a priority for them. There is a program in Boston which we submitted to the Board to see if they could look at it and advise us if we could use the same program here in Chicago. We've been asking for a meeting with the Board of Education here in the community."

WHEN A CHILD STOPS READING

YATES

AGE	READING LEVEL	NATL. READING LEVEL	THE WIDENING GAP
7	2.9	2.8	
8	3.2	3.8	
9	3.2	4.8	
10	3.9	5.8	
11	5.2	6.8	

In 1977-78 the school reported that 50 children were suspended. This is what Mary Lou Porrata observes about suspensions at Yates and other schools in the community:

"A lot of kids are suspended for simple things which could have been taken care of with the teacher at the time. What they do is suspend kids for two or three days or a week at a time. Then the kid doesn't want to go back to school because they feel embarrassed. Especially if kids are in the eighth grade and planning on graduating and if they get suspended too much they can't graduate. They have to go back to eighth grade. So a lot of kids are getting flunked out of school.

"I know a lot of kids are getting suspended. They wanted to suspend my daughter last year because she would come in late in the mornings. The reason was that I had to go to work early and she had to take the baby to the babysitter. I was going to go down to the Board of Education and explain this — that she's 11 years old, old enough to take the baby to the sitter — and that I couldn't leave my daughter in the house by herself and I couldn't stop working! But I had to get real mad.

"Some of the kids get suspended and they don't tell their parents. Some teachers don't communicate with the parents. They go to work real early and come home late or they don't have a telephone so the parents don't even know that the kids are suspended. They leave home like they are going to school but they're not. Finally the parents get a letter or the police or truant officer comes and takes them off. There should be better communication between the teachers and the parents and the child that's in school."

EMMET SCHOOL

Robert Emmet Elementary School, 5500 W. Madison, serves children kindergarten through grade 8 who live in the south Austin community on Chicago's west side. Dorothea Oliver sends her children to Emmet and has worked at the Austin Branch High School. KEEP STRONG talked with Mrs. Oliver one afternoon at the Austin Developmental Center, 5151 W. Madison. She was joined by Jane Paicely, a teacher's aide at Emmet and Mrs. Illa Daggett, director of the center.

Dorothea Oliver: "I get very dissatisfied when I walk into a school with Black children and have to go all the way to the third floor to see a Black teacher. The gym is all the way at the end of the building and there is a Black gym teacher down there, but the majority of Black staff and the Black teachers are on the third floor. There are no more than 10 Black teachers in the school and there are 865 children — all Black.

"There is a Black assistant principal who is one month freed and one month in the classroom. I think he's been in and out of the classroom two or three times this year and fills in wherever. If you count the janitors and the teacher aides you may come up with 20 Black staff in that building."

Mrs. Oliver describes the suspension problem:

"The principals in this neighborhood have a very unique way of suspending. It's unofficial, most of the time. They make up their own forms because the Board forms go to the district office. We've found kids trespassing in the building where I worked who were on suspension from another school. They had a *handwritten* suspension. in their hand, not a formal suspension.

Dorothea Oliver: "I get very dissatisfied when I walk into a school with Black children and have to go all the way to the third floor to see a Black teacher."

CHICAGO SCHOOLS

(Emmet School reported that only two students were suspended in 1977-78. Sources at HEW's Office of Civil Rights commented that the Board's statistics about school suspensions and expulsions are "blatant lies." To get the real facts, OCR staff have to examine every child's file and individual attendance records.)

"I've seen teachers come in, knowing nothing about the community, nothing about the kids and you can't come from Glencoe or Skokie and never have been in the Black community and tell me that 'I feel your child needs so and so....' You don't know what I need, what I'm going through. I also feel this is one way the kids get pushed through the system. By the time a child reaches ninth grade he or she is lost.

"And these people they call 'psychologists.' And special education? There's the biggest rip-off I've seen." *Mrs. Daggett comments:* "And then there are the good psychologists relegated to doing paperwork because they don't agree to the principles of putting children in special ed who have not been tested."

Jane Paicely, a teacher's aide at Emmet has observed the procedures of placing children in the special ed program.

"If there's a child some teacher or the principal might consider a 'bad child,' the next thing you know that child is pushed into a special ed room where there's been no test, no blue slip, no nothing....A blue slip means that this child is ready for testing by the psychologist. But along with the psychologist the parent is supposed to be there and agree to this. They are supposed to sign before the child is placed in special ed."

The Board of Education's Report on the City-Wide Testing Program for 1978-79 published the reading scores of all the schools in the city. At Emmet last year, eighth graders were reading an average of 6.3 while the national averages were 8.8. Mrs. Oliver commented on the school's reading program:

"I worked at Austin Branch, the receiving high school for Emmet. I don't have the breakdown here, but I do remember at a meeting one night of 100 parents, the principal stood up and made a statement about how wonderful the schools are, how we didn't have any problems. Now, I'm getting these same kids we're talking about. How can a principal stand up in front of me and tell me you've had a kid for four years and send him to high school with a 5.2 reading level.

"I don't buy that bulls--- about summer school. If you have not taught a kid to read in four years you're not going to do it in six or seven weeks! We had some 900 or more freshmen there and you could not find 100 out of that 900 reading on a ninth grade level.

"Years ago, when we were A,B and C we were fighting like cats and dogs over federal money. Now when you look at the amount of federal money that's poured into the schools and the kids are still not reading, something is wrong. We said, 'Well, we don't want the money,' and they said, 'Well, you can't give the money back.' Then write a proposal and let the parents use it. Let them learn what federal money is all about. So we did that, and now one week, each year the parents can go to an ESEA workshop and actually get paid for it.

"But that program was not expanded. Our district educational council was one effort. We tried workshops for the parents. But when people from the Board come out their whole thing is like the alcoholic problem – denial. We are doing fine. They are busy telling us, 'Yesterday you had bread, today you have water to go with it. Be happy.'

"The Board needs to spend more money educating the parents. I looked at the garbage they put out

WHEN A CHILD STOPS READING

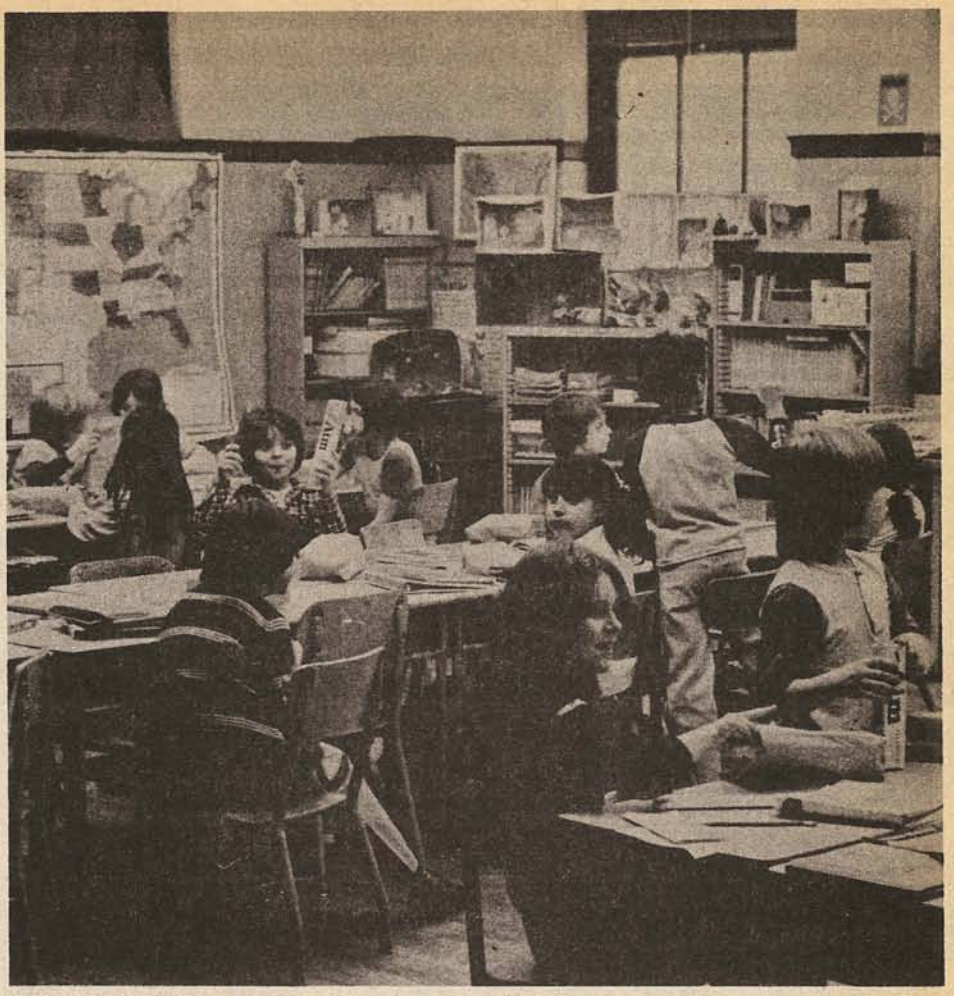
EMMET

AGE	READING LEVEL	NATL. READING LEVEL	THE WIDENING GAP
7	2.5	2.8	
8	3.1	3.8	
9	3.6	4.8	
10	3.6	5.8	
11	4.5	6.8	

the other week on "Access to Excellence." The parents can't understand that. Now, all this money is being poured into "Access to Excellence." You have a child coming home from a house with a parent who may not be able to read.

"The quality of education? As a parent with six children who've gone through the schools in this community I don't see where we get any. I get very discouraged each month when we meet with the district superintendent and his whole thing is this "Access to Excellence," – what he's doing at Burbank or Sayre (mainly White schools). My question is: if my child is not involved in "Access to Excellence" what are you offering him down here?

"So far the only thing I've seen is this back-to-school parade and I resigned from that committee! I'm not going to knock my brains out on a back-to-school parade when I don't see them offering the kids anything to go back to school for."□



School Districts 24, 6 and 4 reported that no students were expelled in school year 1977-78. But the U.S. Office of Civil Rights in Chicago called the report a "blatant lie."

AT BRENNEMAN, YATES and EMMET THEY SPEND LESS THAN $12 PER CHILD PER YEAR ON TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

	BOOKS		*SUPPLIES*		*COST PER CHILD*	
	1975-76	1978-79	1975-76	1978-79	1975-76	1978-79
Brenneman	$8,699	$6,365	$2,727	$426	$11.30	$7.90
Yates	$16,420	$15,257	$4,401	$2,327	$12.00	$9.60
Emmet	$8,889	$8,756	$2,284	$1,009	$13.80	$11.00

Source: Chicago Board of Education Budget 1975-76 and 1978-79. (Figures for books and supplies are based on figures which appear under the Board's category, "Other Instructional Purposes." Cost per child figures are approximated and are based on student enrollment as reported in the Board's Student Racial/Ethnic Survey for the years 1975-76 and 1978-79.)

About the Chicago Board Of Education's Reading Program

This summer the Board of Education released the results of its city-wide testing program in which 7-13 year olds attending elementary and middle schools took the Iowa tests of basic skills. The tests include vocabulary, reading comprehension, math concepts and math problems.

The results of the tests have been published by the Board's Department of Research and Evaluation. A study of the results indicates that while 6th, 7th and 8th graders made a slight improvement in reading, younger students showed no significant gains.

On the average, Chicago pupils fall behind the national average scores. However, a survey of the results shows that the best eighth grade scores were received by students in schools on the southwest, northwest and far north sides. Lowest eighth grade reading scores were reported for schools on the south and west sides.

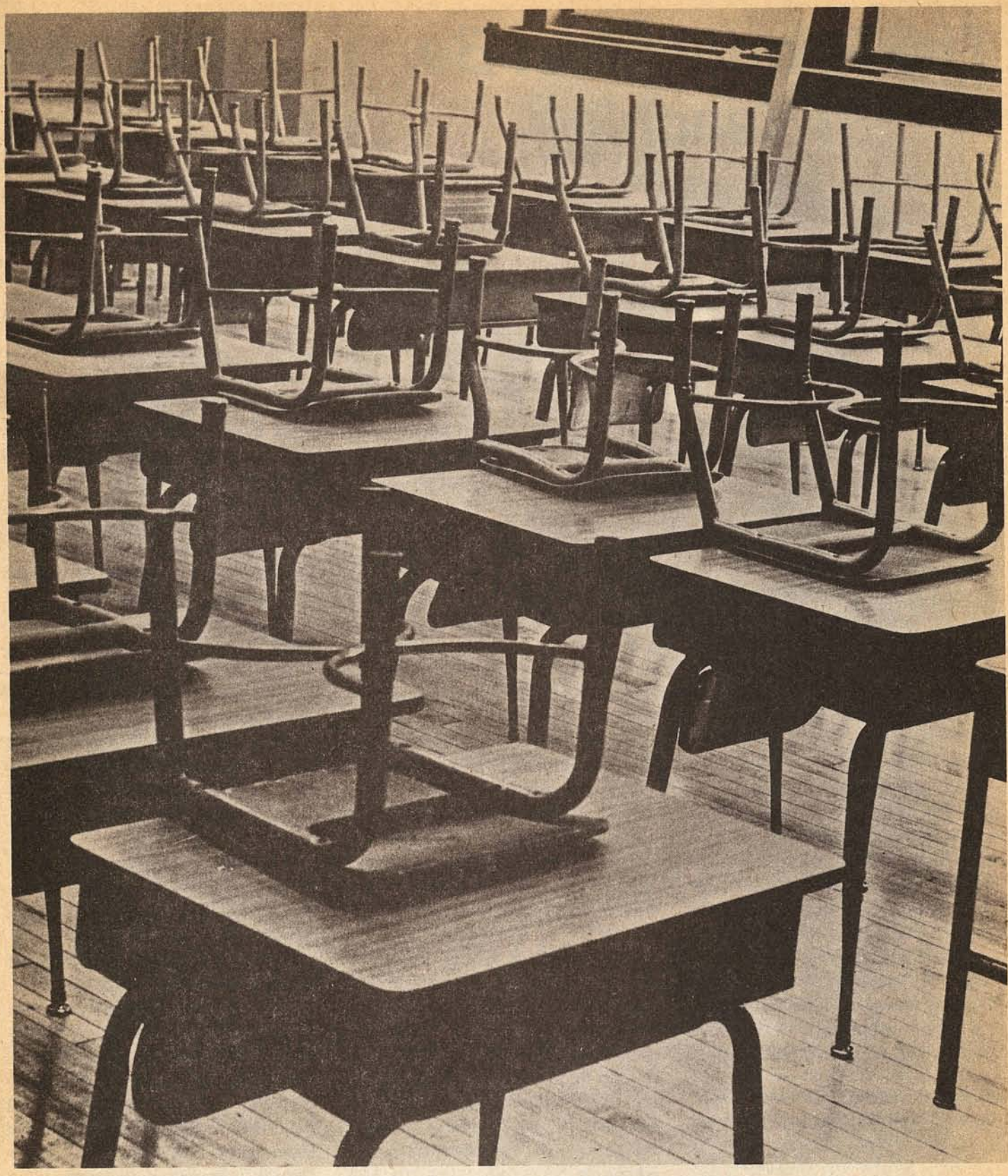
In 1970 the Board of Education launched a $3 million-a-year special reading program called Intensive Reading Improvement Program (IRIP) which was intended to take one teacher from a school and give them 60 hours of training in how to teach reading. Teachers trained in the program were supposed to go back to their school and pass the theory and practice along to the other teachers. In 1979, the program had 203 teachers in 186 schools.

"While some books are read, most of the time is spent getting students to pass a particular test."

But a study conducted by the Board of Education's own Department of Research and Evaluation found that the presence of an IRIP teacher in the school made little difference in the student's reading scores. The study also showed that there was little relationship between what an IRIP teacher had been trained to do and what they were actually doing at their schools. Some teachers reported that they spent their time in activities like passing out materials, keeping records, monitoring students in the hallways, substituting for absent teachers, ordering textbooks and disciplining students.

In the spring of 1978 the Board instituted its promotion policy which stated that no eighth grader could graduate and go on to high school unless they had achieved a seventh grade reading level. Students who would turn 14 by December 1 would be assigned to summer school. Older students (who would be 15 by December 1) would be passed on to high school but required to enroll in remedial reading courses. Students who catch up at the end of the seven week summer school would be graduated from the eighth grade.

Some teachers and parents have raised questions about the quality of the summer school programs. One Chicago school teacher commented that often the children are given the test they have to pass at the beginning of the summer school session. While some books are read during the term, most of the time is spent on getting students to learn how to pass a particular test rather than on developing the child's individual reading skills. □



CHICAGO SCHOOLS

More employees than U.S. Steel, more mechanics than AAMCO, 20 years after segregated schools were declared unconstitutional, the Board of Education is still admininistering two school systems in Chicago, one for Whites and one for non-Whites. Find out why 45 percent of the Board's employees (21,000 people) never set foot inside a classroom.

The Priority Must Be On Teaching

by George N. Schmidt

The Chicago Board of Education is the largest employer in the Chicago metropolitan area, with 45,000-plus people on its books compared to United States Steel, a distant second with 40,000 employees.

The public schools own more land in the City of Chicago than any other single public or private institution. In addition to the more than 600 elementary schools and high schools and branches in the city, public school buildings also include the various district offices, other administrative offices, and the vast Board of Education central supply warehouses at 31st and Kedzie. The number of automobile and truck mechanics working for the Board of Education, if combined with those working everyday in high school auto shops, would make the Board a retail repair power comparable to AAMCO or Midas. In every way the Chicago public schools are a vast, powerful, and politically important enterprise.

But the education of the nearly one half million children who attend the schools is generally the least important concern of the members of the Board of Education and the administrators who actually run the public schools. In order to set the record straight and set the schools in order, the first thing we have to do is get back to the basics of education: students and teachers. Forget the rest. In order to have a school, you need students, teachers, a place for them to be together, enough time for the students to learn the subject, and the materials to teach, experiment and learn.

In fact, the Chicago Board of Education has always placed the teachers and students last. Despite the public relations of the public schools, the last place to get what is needed to do the job of education is the local schools. If the Board of Education's $1.2 billion annual budget is a pie, the places where the educaton takes place get the last piece.

First the pie is divided up among the army of bureaucrats who range over the city from 228 N. LaSalle St., where the Board of Education's offices are. The next slices are divided among the 27 district offices and the various other paper-pushing centers owned and operated by the Board.

Of the 47,222 people working for the Board of Education in 1976, a little over half — 26,014 — were teachers working in the schools as teachers, principals, assistant principals, counselors, etc. In other words, 21,000 people or 44.9 percent of the Chicago Board of Education's payroll are not teachers. This percentage of administrative and support staff is the highest of any public school system in the United States.

ENTER HANNON

The General Superintendent of Schools is Dr. Joseph Hannon. Dr. Hannon was appointed General Superintendent in August, 1975, over Acting General Supt. Dr. Manfred Byrd, who was Black, experienced, popular and proven. Byrd was kicked downstairs to a $54,000-per year job as Deputy Supt. of Schools and has barely been heard from since. Hannon, who was a virtual unknown at the time of his appointment, immediately moved into his $56,000 per year job and provoked an 11-day teachers' strike by trying to lay off more than 2,000 teachers to "balance the budget." When the strike was settled he began his job by working to cut teaching

---

GEORGE SCHMIDT has been teaching in the Chicago Public Schools for eight years. He is currently president of Substitutes United for Better Schools (S.U.B.S.) and the Chicago Teachers Union delegate representing the teachers of Tilden High School on the city's south side. He teaches remedial reading and English at Tilden. He and his wife live in Logan Square on the city's northwest side.

and learning time to the bone, piecemeal, rather than all at once.

Beginning in 1974, the number of students in the Chicago public schools began to decline. In 1975, the schools served 526,000 students. By 1978, the schools were only serving 494,000.

The mid and late 1970's presented public schools everywhere with an opportunity to improve the education of the children by reducing class size and relieving the overcrowding of students, particularly in the inner city schools.

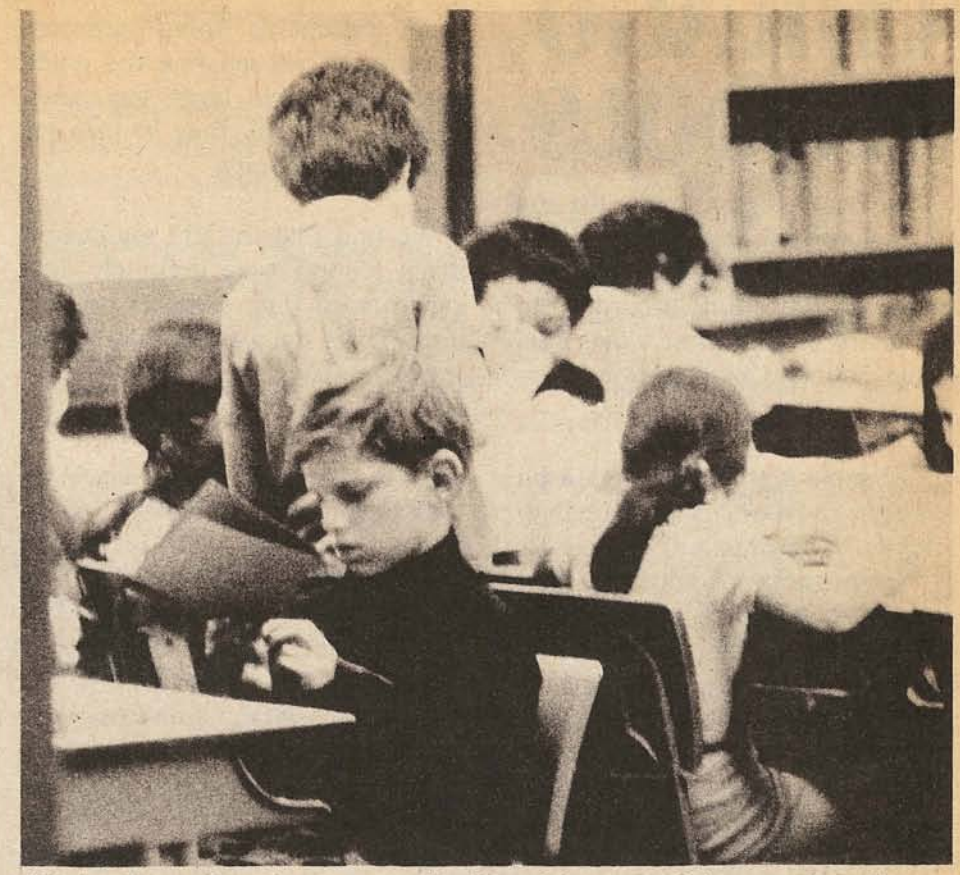
Instead, the Chicago Board of Education, under the guise of economy, *increased* the proportion of non-teaching personnel while getting rid of teachers at nearly twice the rate that it was losing students.

The facts are simple. In 1975, there were 526,000 students; in 1977 there were 512,000. Thus in the first two years of Dr. Hannon's administration, the number of students decreased by 2.6 percent.

During the same period, the number of teachers in classrooms (as opposed to those in administrative positions) decreased from 27,003 to 25,882. From 1975 to 1977, the number of teachers in Chicago decreased by 4.1 percent.

At the same time, the number of non-teaching Board of Education employees (which includes everyone from the General Supt. to school clerks) decreased from 21,354 to 20,945 – a drop of only 1.9 percent.

The same perverted priorities can be seen in every other area of the work of the Chicago Board of Education. Since 1975, money for textbooks and supplies – the two basics of the classroom and of the teaching/learning process – has been cut 10 percent to 50 percent during a time when inflation for these items has been almost 100 percent. In real dollars, the classrooms today have half the money for books and supplies that they had in 1975.



"Under the guise of economy the Board increased the number of non-teaching personnel, while getting rid of teachers at nearly twice the rate it was losing students."

The Board of Education claims that students are missing too much school. Yet since 1975, the number of truant officers has been cut by more than 10 percent.

At the same time, the number of clipboard artists, consultants, dilletantes, and "experts" of every kind has been increased enormously at taxpayers' expense. On August 15, 1979, the Board of Education approved the allocation of more than three quarters of a million dollars ($750,000) for the hiring of "consultants," most of whom are hired to write tests that may never be used for a program – mastery learning – that has never been proven.

RACISM PARTICULARLY HURTS THE SCHOOLS

While all of the Chicago public schools are being cheated by a budget that puts teaching and the classroom last, it is the city's Black ghetto school system that is being cheated the most. The money that the inner city family receives back from their taxes in educational services is about 3/4 the amount that White families in the city's more affluent areas receive.

For example, in 1978-1979, the city had 54 general high schools. Of these, 23 were all Black, while eight were virtually all White. The rest were, more or less, integrated. Of the 27 poorest high schools (in the amount of money spent per pupil) 16 were Black, but none were White. These schools received an average of $900 per pupil per year for education.

CHICAGO SCHOOLS

The "rich" high schools, the top 27, included all of the city's White schools. These averaged $1,025 per pupil for education, according to the Board of Education's own "Selected School Characteristics" statistics.

The same is true, although a bit less so, in the city's elementary schools. More than half of the city's 450 elementary schools are segregated for Black children. These generally receive less money overall than the White and integrated schools.

The greatest failure of the public schools is the failure to teach students to read. However, the fact is that not all schools fail. The segregated Black schools fail; the segregated White schools succeed.

During the 1977-78 school year, the average sixth grader in Chicago should have been reading at a score of 6.8 at the time of testing. Citywide, our students were reading at the level of 5.4 on the *average*. This average is from all 437 Chicago schools with 6th grades.

An interesting thing happens, however, if we separate the grade schools into two large segregated groups – the way they in fact are separated in the city.

We find that the 212 segregated Black schools were definitely failing to teach their students how to read. There the average was 4.9 – approximately two years "behind" after six years of school.

At the same time, the city's 91 segregated White schools scored – on the average – 6.9. Just where they were supposed to be!

Is the difference that White people can learn to read better than Black people? We all know that this is nonsense.

In fact, the city's "White" schools and the city's "Black" schools constitute two separate and unequal school systems. The one tends to have "better" schools; the other worse. In the White system, classes tend to be smaller, supplies more available and teaching easier.

In the Black system, you tend to have more administratively created chaos – larger classes; lack of teachers and supplies; poorer buildings; less money available per pupil.

Joseph Hannon, a virtual unknown at the time, was appointed General Superintendent in 1975, over Dr. Manfred Byrd, who was Black, experienced and proven. Hannon's first move was to lay off 2,000 teachers to "balance the budget."

Chicago's "White" school system has tended to put a greater emphasis on teaching and learning; the "Black" system has traditionally emphasized "discipline," order and various forms of basic training.

CHICAGO IS NOT DESEGREGATING

While the statistics show that the city's segregated schools produce inferior results for Black people, they don't show the solution.

Everyone in this city should know that two major projects of the Board of Education are not going to solve either the problem of segregation or the problem of underachievement in the city's Black schools. These are "Access to Excellence" and "Mastery Learning."

"Access to Excellence" is supposed to be a desegregation plan but it isn't. In fact, it's a way of funneling a disproportionate share of school money into certain specially selected, elite middle class schools – at the expense of everybody else.

For example, the LaSalle Language Academy in School District 7 is within spitting distance of the Cabrini Green housing project. LaSalle spends twice as much on each of its carefully-selected "integrated" students as the five elementary schools in Cabrini Green. Basically, the Cabrini Green kids are gypped in two ways: "Access to Excellence" lets them stay in segregated schools in the projects while it spends money for the middle class that could be going into their ghetto schools. The same thing is true of every one of the Board of Education's prize projects: Disney Magnet, Whitney Young High School, etc., etc.

"Continuous Progress/Mastery Learning," on the other hand, is

supposed to enable everybody in the schools to work individually and progress through reading and math at their own rate. That's the theory.

The fact is that by tripling the amount of paperwork required of teachers, "Continuous Progress" has taken teachers' time away from teaching and students. Elementary school teachers in this city are yoked to a series of cards, charts, graphs and reporting forms whose effective purpose is to control every detail of their teaching day and enable their bosses to monitor exactly what they are doing at every moment without being in the classroom.

Despite the barrage of publicity that the "Continuous Progress" program has been receiving, it is already failing in Chicago. But while it fails – like "New Math" before it – it is taking money and time away from teachers and learners in public school classrooms across the city. A teacher who has to spend 20 to 30 hours per week on added paperwork is simply not going to spend that time with children. The result is less, not more, "individualization" and less learning.

THE BIG LIES

The most disgusting aspect of the Chicago public schools is the big lie that ties all the little lies together.

After creating the most segregated school system in the country, Chicago creates the Big Lie of "Access to Excellence" in order to continue business as usual while claiming it is desegregating.

After creating a school system that fails to teach Black and poor children how to read, Chicago creates a teaching system which takes more time away from their teaching, "Continuous Progress/ Mastery Learning."

Then, when the city stays segregated because the Board of Education keeps segregating and when the children keep not learning because the Board of Education is spending money on everything but teaching and learning, they throw up their hands, say, "We did our best" and try to blame the victims – the students and teachers.

The most insidious form that the Big Lie could take soon in this city is for the people who have put us in this situation to get us fighting one another.

The most disturbing thing about criticism of the schools in the communities of Chicago is that it usually focuses on the teachers. Equally disturbing is that when teachers talk about what's wrong with the schools they often blame the parents and the students.

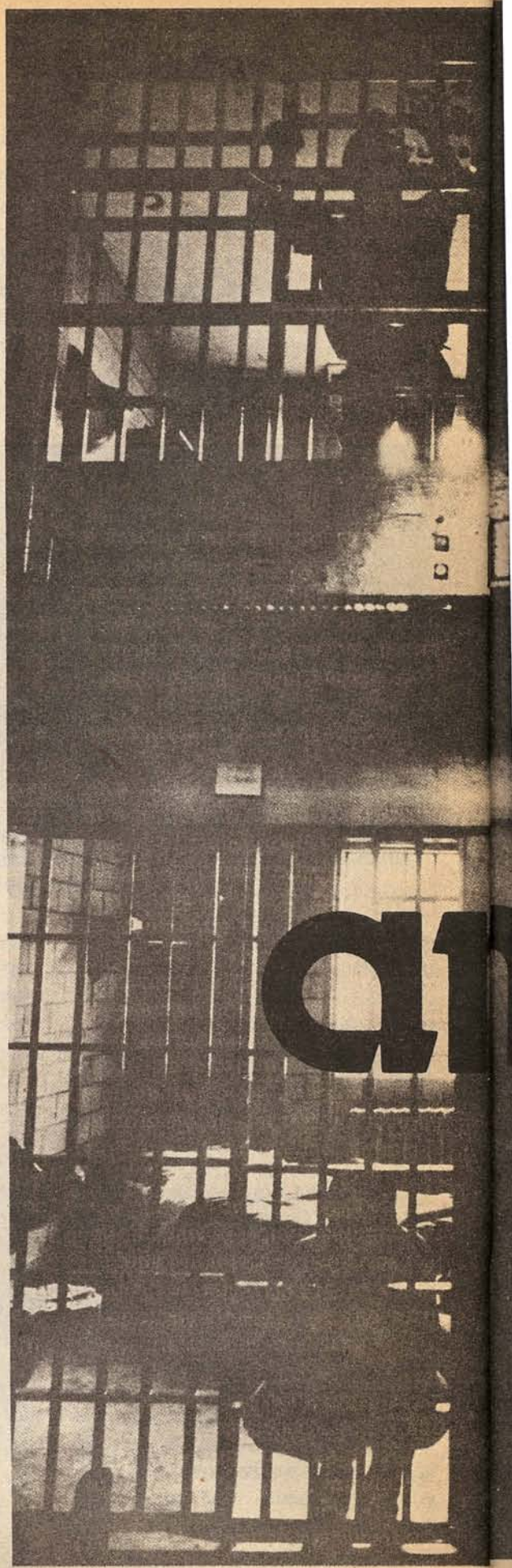
The fact is that from the point of view of the Chicago Board of Education and the people who make $50,000 and up running the education show in this town, nothing could be better than to have teachers and communities at war with one another.

In the end we'll all be the losers. Because in the end the only way that we are going to succeed in reforming education in Chicago is to get back to supporting the process of teaching and learning that goes on in the classroom day-in-and-day out, year after year.

The alternative is to have the people who have cut everything to do with teaching watch from the sidelines while we fight like two cats in a sack being thrown into the lake. We've got to get together and fight the bastards that made the sack and put us there in the first place. □

"While all of the Chicago schools are being cheated by a budget that puts teaching and the classroom last, it is the city's Black ghetto school system that is being cheated the most."

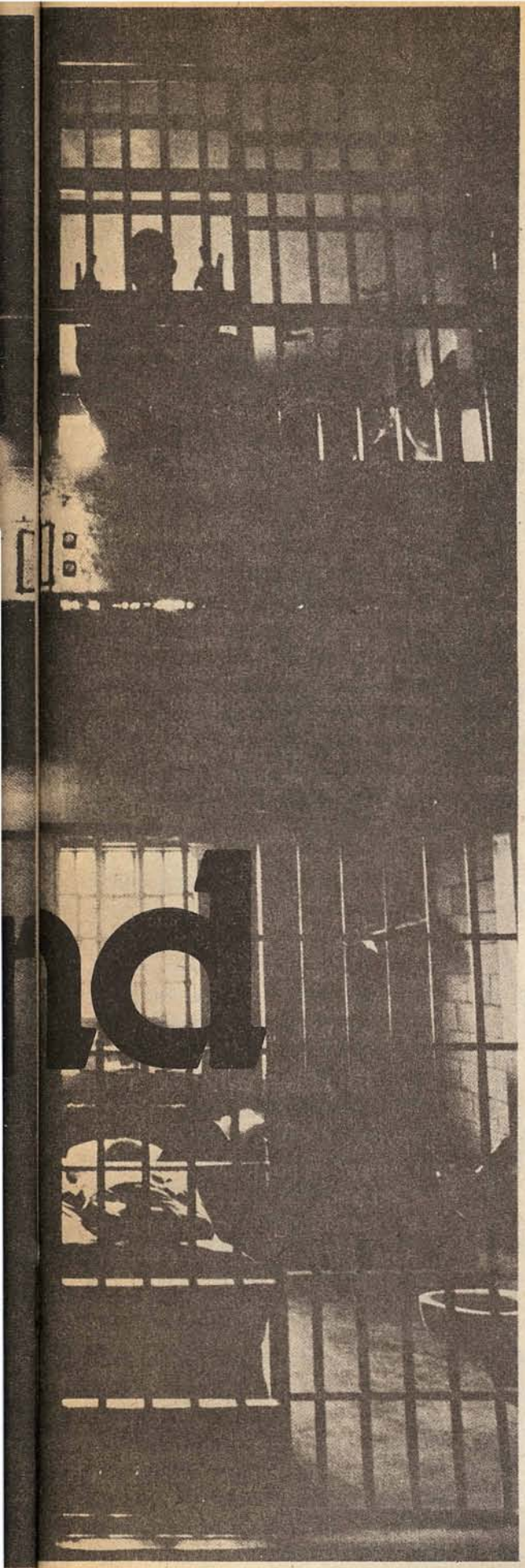
Illinois Prisons In Black



"The biggest thing that I see as a determinant of why prisoners join different organizations is because of conditions within prisons themselves.

It's a *JUNGLE*. It's a *MADHOUSE*. The administration does not do what it is prescribed by law to do; that is to provide certain basic living conditions for prisoners. They have all kinds of administrative regulations which require that a prisoner

continued on page 48



Part 1 of a 2 part series.

Approximately 11,000 men and women are incarcerated in Illinois prisons today. Sixty percent of them are non-white. Almost all of the prisons are over 100 years old and all were overcrowded when the prison population was thousands less. Race hate runs high and is the chief tool the prison administration uses to control inmates.

The accounts that follow are from two recently released prisoners. The first is from a Black man, the second is from a White man. The White's perspective will be concluded in Part 2 next month.

White

"The main thing in prison is that they try to break you, break your spirit and your heart. The administration, the guards make you feel like dirt.

Black prisoners are really more powerful than White prisoners. First of all there are more of them. Secondly, the administration is more afraid of the Blacks because they can raise more hell. The administration tries to manipulate this

continued on page 50

Black
continued

continued from page 46

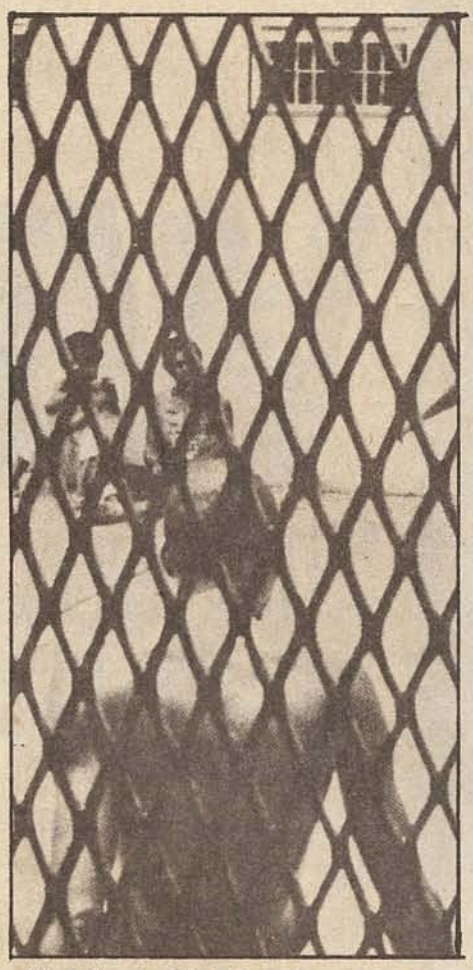
would have one shower per week; that he would have a clean bed that's not infested with bugs; that he would have bed linen; that he would have materials to clean his cell; that he would not have to live in overcrowded conditions. Stateville, in particular, and the Illinois prison system, in general, have been lax in supplying basic living necessities. So a lot of prisoners join various organizations so they can deal with some of those conditions. Some of the organizations deal with them and some of them don't.

The largest number of organized prisoners are probably in one of the so-called street gangs which I refer to merely as "organizations" – which is what they really are. There are the Disciples – a Black street gang which started on the south side, in Englewood, with a long history of rivalry with the Blackstone Rangers (or the Black P. Stone Nation) which is now the Moorish Americans. Then there is the Vice Lords, an organization that was primarily on the west side of Chicago. Then there are smaller subbranches of those organizations; for instance, a sub-branch of the Black P. Stone Nation was the Cobra Stones and a sub-branch of the Disciples was the Souls from the west side of Chicago.

Practically every Black prisoner who comes through the County Jail to Pontiac or Stateville probably is subjected to an attempt at recruitment. A prison either breaks a man or makes him. Depending on the character of the particular prisoner and the strength he brings to the prison himself, he can either resist those attempts at recruitment or he will succumb to them based on what he's got going for himself.

I've heard about a lot of prisoners who were members of various organizations who made real profound statements about how this administration has us fighting each other and what we really need to do is direct our energies towards that administration. There were a lot of attempts in prison and there will be more attempts of those organizations to have a truce, an agreement where they wouldn't fight each other – they would fight the administration.

The population ratio in Pontiac and Stateville is 85 to 90 percent Black. The racism that exists in Stateville and Pontiac is the same racism that exists in the outside world and the causes are basically the same. It's a manipulation of people by forces who have power. The racism in Stateville and Pontiac is fostered and played upon by the administration for their own good. Clearly, they see that if they can keep White prisoners and Black prisoners at each other's throats, then they don't have to worry about them being at their own throats. There is a certain amount of animosity which exists, but basically, the prisoners themselves try to keep down as much static as they can.



"A prison either breaks a man or makes him. Depending on the character of the particular prisoner and the strength he brings to the prison himself..."

The situation at Stateville has been really cruelly manipulated. When I went to Stateville in 1971 there was very little if any racial fights. At that time there were a lot of White prisoners, mostly old-timers who had been around a long time and the racial ratio was something like 75 percent Black and 25 percent White. There was very little warfare. A lot of people had weapons but only for their own protection. When the population ratio started changing and there were more Black prisoners coming in and fewer White prisoners coming in, the administration changed their policies.

They started a protective custody unit inside all institutions. In Stateville that protective custody unit was almost an all-White unit. They started propagandizing in the Diagnostic Depot or Reception and Classification. They would tell White prisoners, "If you go to Stateville, or if you go to Pontiac, you cannot go into population, because if you do the gangs are going to rip you off." Most people, not knowing about a novel situation and hearing this from the administrators or the authorities, knowing there are incidents in every prison in the country where people get messed over or ripped off, and

"The administration cut down the number of available jobs, it left all prisoners sitting in their cells, being warehoused."

watching television and stuff like that, they become afraid. The administration was responsible for a great deal of that. There was a stigma attached to people going to protective custody. They were thought to be either "punks" or "stool pigeons." So what happened was that Black prisoners started looking at White prisoners as being afraid to come into population or started thinking that many were homosexuals. These stigmas created a whole lot of static.

The other thing the administration did was to cut down the number of available jobs, so it just left all prisoners sitting in their cells, being warehoused. People didn't have a chance to mingle a whole lot, to get to know each other. They were kept in their cells 18 to 20 hours a day. This caused a whole lot of tension to build up to a point that people couldn't deal with each other.

One of the things that my long experience in prison has shown me is that any time you take individuals from different cultures, different sub-cultures, like a rural White who has been raised on a farm and a Black who has been raised on 63rd or 16th Street in the city and throw them together, you are going to have some conflict. They don't understand where the other one is coming from. They use different terminology, different language; they have different values. You're in an environment with probably the most aggressive people in society who are all thrown together. Fights are common. My experience is that after the fight is over it is forgotten. But if you have an organized group — one group on one side and one on the other, they do carry over for a long time.

I know at one time there were some White prisoners who were transferred from Menard to Stateville who were supposed to be members of the Ku Klux Klan; those prisoners were clearly marked. That was because they were members of an organization which had consciously and relentlessly caused Black prisoners in Menard all kinds of hell. They were going to be attacked. To a certain extent the administration still carries on a racial policy of favoring certain White prisoners. They get better assignments and they are more easily transferred to other institutions. This only serves to keep racial

Black
continued

animosity up. The big thing is that all those White prisoners who are organized in racist groups like the Ku Klux Klan were given a whole lot of support by the administration and the guards in Menard. In '74 and '75 they had some incidents in Menard in which the Catholic chaplain and security personnel – one of the lieutenants – had been supplying White prisoners not only with Ku Klux Klan literature but also with weapons and all kinds of things.

There's a tremendous amount of tension between Black prison guards and White prison guards because the White prison guards, to a large extent, try to carry out the inhumane policies of the administration. They really try to go by the letter of the law as far as prisoners are concerned. Some Black prison guards are a little more understanding. But that is not to say that the ideal situation would be to have more Black prison guards. But that's not the basic contradiction – which is that prisons are just inhumane places. It's inhumane to put a person in a cage and not to deal with his basic necessities and to treat him like an animal. One of the wardens at Stateville had classified Stateville as a zoo. But he absolved himself of his responsibilities for fostering that type of institution. He was saying that prisoners acted like animals, but he never said that he was responsible for the conditions which forced human beings to act like animals. □"

I've seen a lot of real strong brothers...who did all their time based on "I'm a man and I'm going to deal with these forces down here, and I'm going to come out on top."

White
continued

continued from page 47

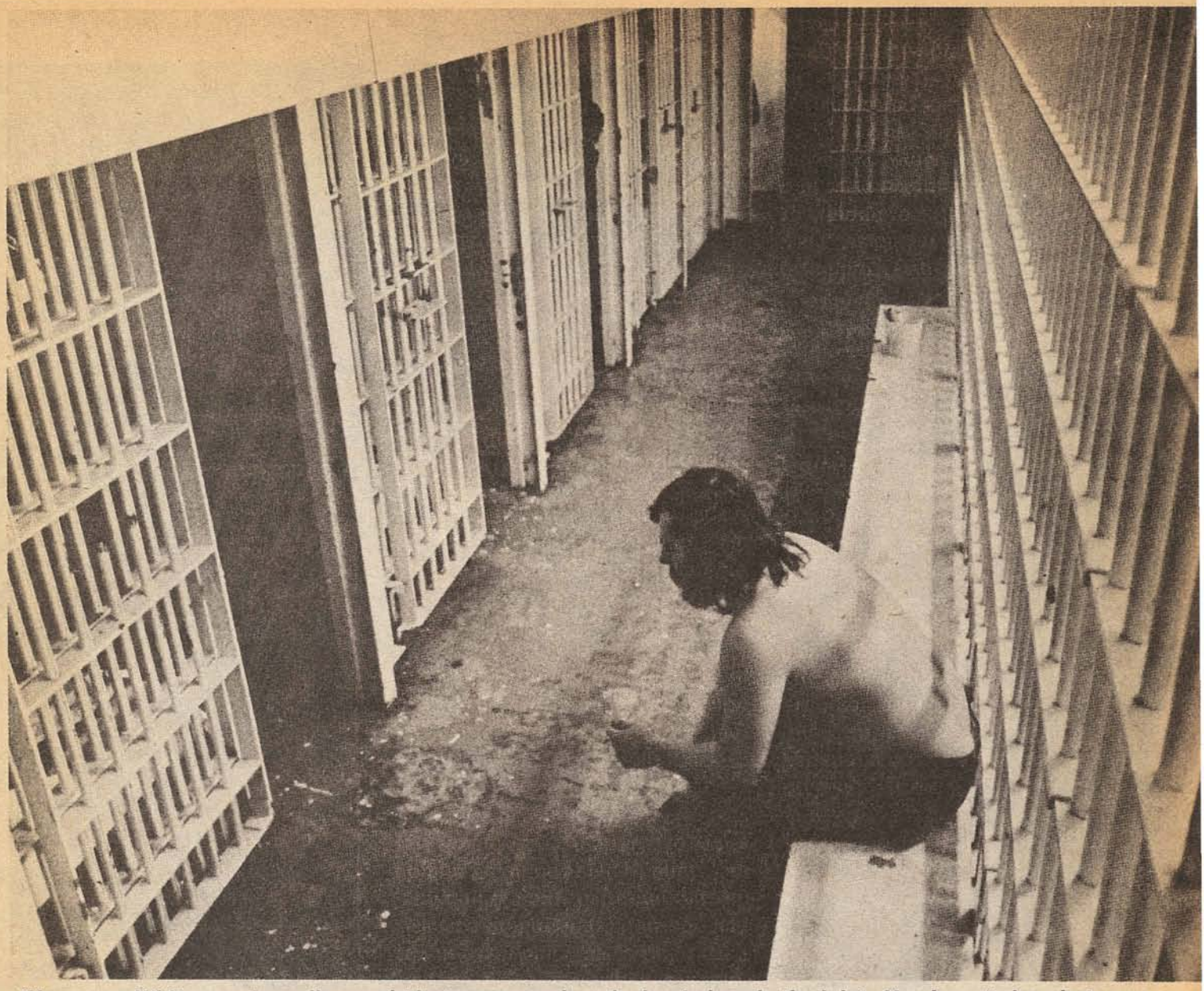
situation, pits one group against the other, creates problems in order to keep control.

Last summer in Menard for instance, just after the Pontiac thing kicked off, a lot of Black prisoners were transferred to Menard. The administration was very afraid, they didn't know what was going to happen. The warden authorized all of the Black gang leaders to have color TV's in their cells if they would keep trouble down. There were 3 White dudes out on the yard who were jumped by about 14 Disciples. Well, they put all of the White dudes in the hole and arrested none of the Black dudes. This kind of shit tends to keep tension and static running high.

The police, the guards, try to stir up racial incidents. If there is a fight in Menard, for instance, between a Black and a White, they will ship the White guy to Stateville, which is mostly Black. Word precedes the man to the joint, and he will probably get jumped once he arrives there. If the man goes to protective custody, to stay alive, then he is given a certain stigma which creates even more static. Same thing if the fight is in Stateville – they will end up sending the Black dude to Menard.

You see a White man is really caught between a rock and a hard place in the joint. They not only have to deal with the administration and the conditions, they also have to deal with the gangs.

There really isn't any organization designed to benefit White



"You see a White man is really caught between a rock and a hard place in the joint...You have to be what you are or you'll be what they make you be."

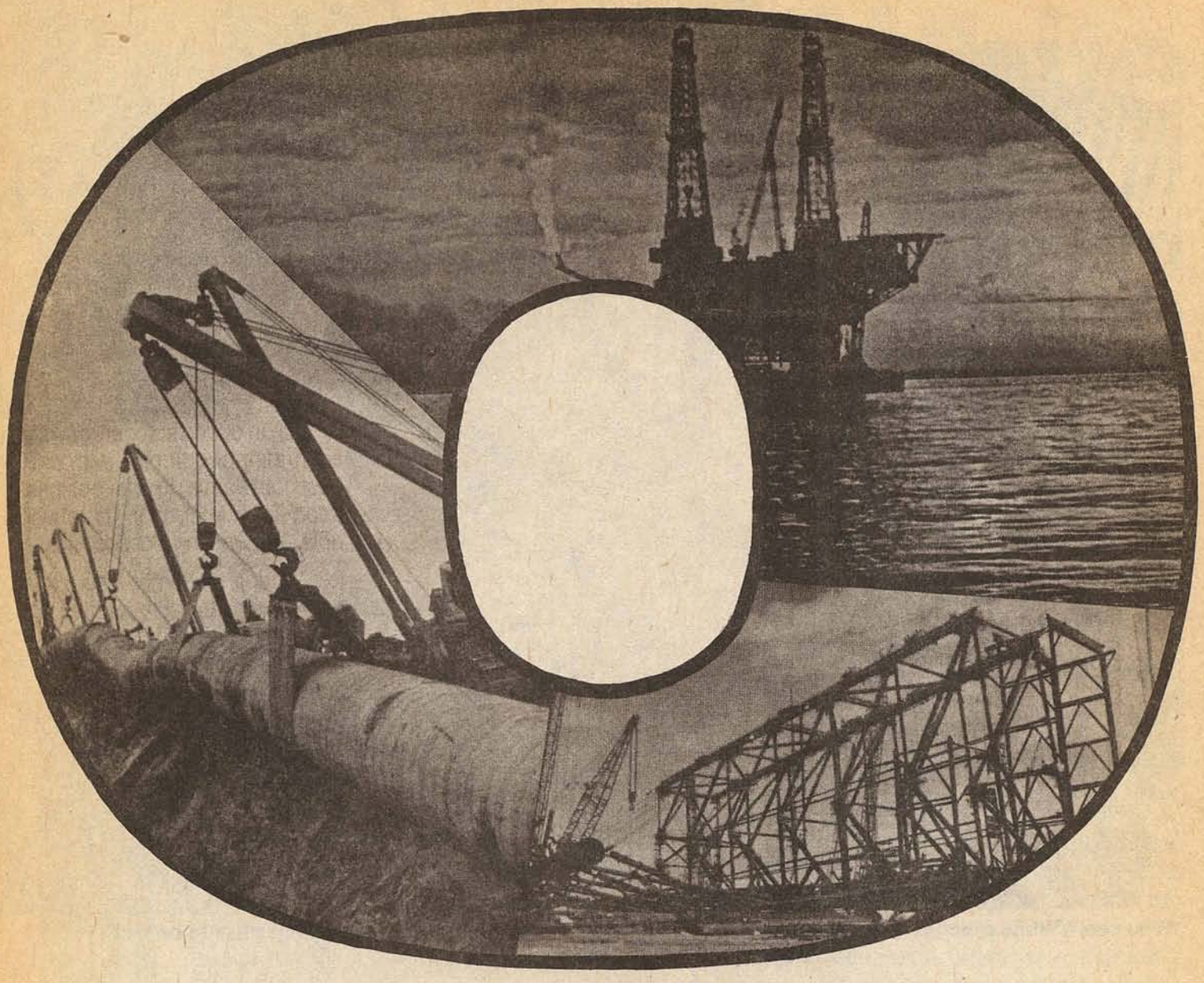
dudes. Mostly White dudes are associated with the Black gangs in one way or the other. The ones that don't affiliate are automatically labelled a Klansman, even though most of them aren't.

Most White dudes hook up with the Black gangs out of fear of physical harm or of being raped or something like that. They end up paying so much each week to the gang and do basically anything they are told to do. In my opinion they are just plain cowards.

You have to be what you are or you'll be what they make you be. A lot of guys try to avoid trouble at all costs, but a lot depends on who you are associated with. You may have had to show your heart at some time, take a stand, say previously in the County or something. Or maybe you backed someone up who was resisting the gang thing. You will be labelled a Klansman and will carry that label wherever you go in prison.

Young White dudes have an especially hard time. You see you really have to meet trouble head on. Many of these young guys are scared and show it a mile away. They are sure to be propositioned or raped, they face constant harassment, they make easy targets. There are a lot of what I'd call professional penitentiary people and they can usually spot who has no heart and they usually try to make them.

In Stateville, the population is about 97 percent Black. In Menard it is about 60 percent Black. From my experience, Black guards tend to favor Black inmates, and White guards white inmates. There are some cases where White guards are really intimidated by the Blacks and will do anything for them. There are some favored Whites, but those who are, are usually stool pigeons. I wouldn't say overall that anyone is showed any favoritism, each one is in just as bad a situation as the other. □"

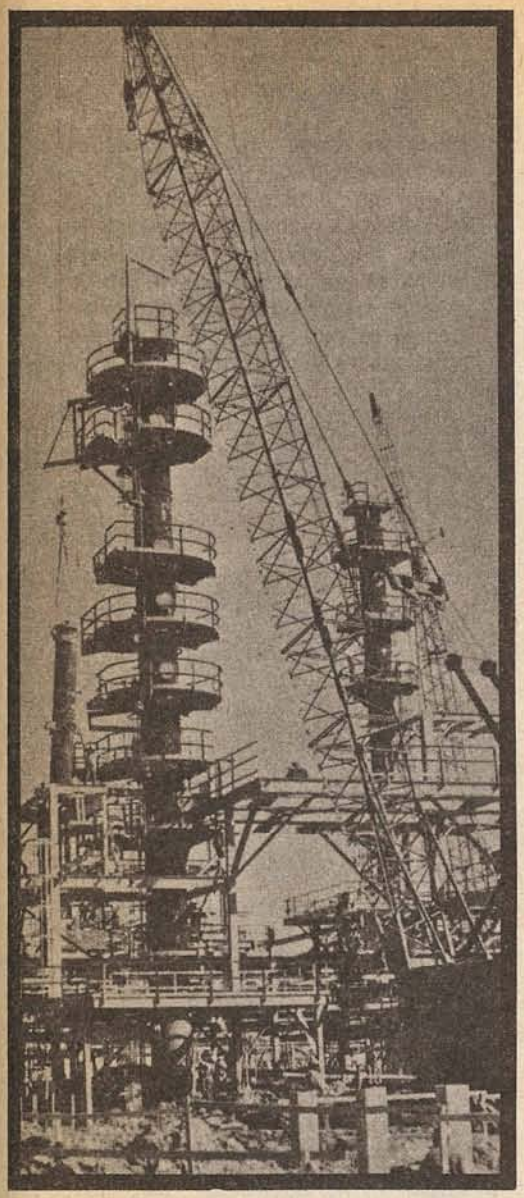


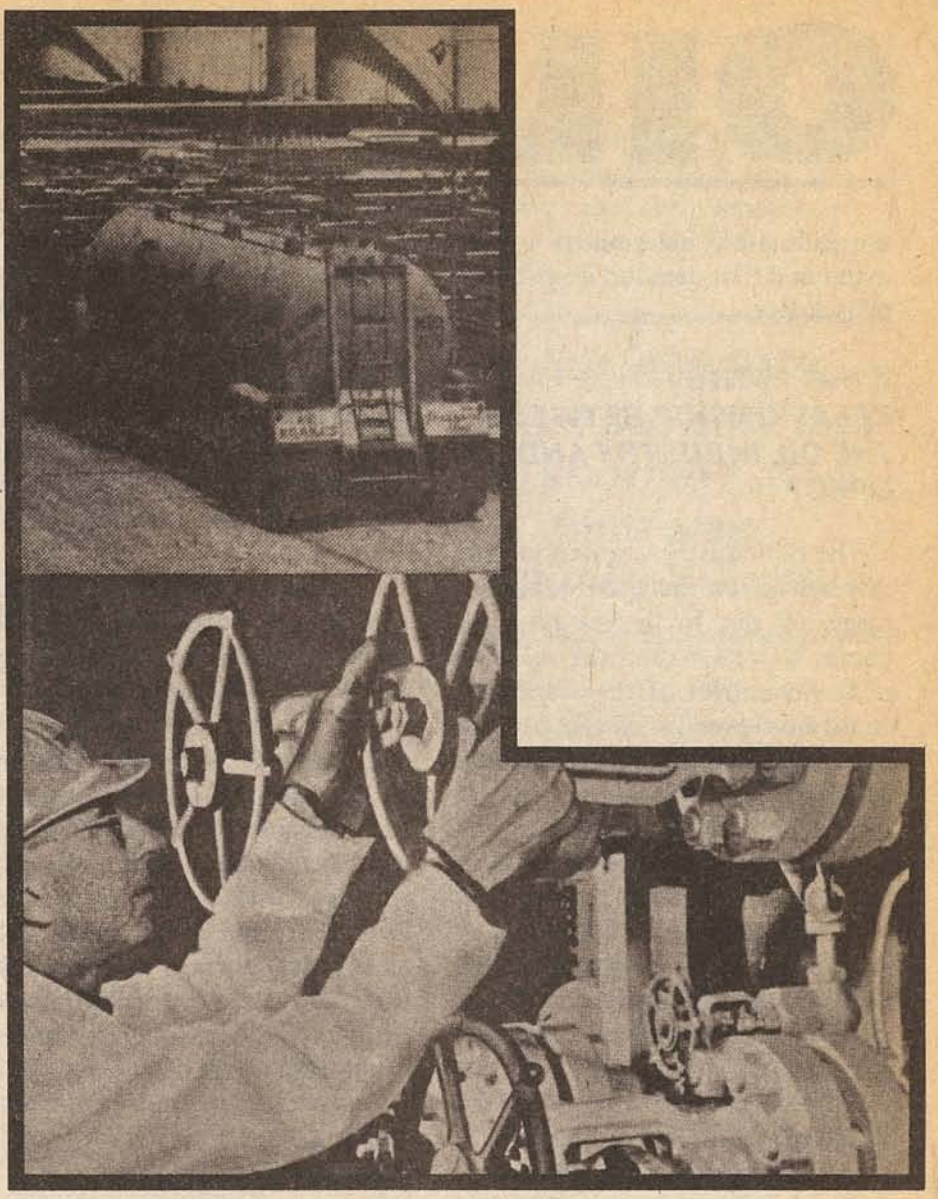
While thousands of people were slowly going crazy in gas lines this summer — billions of gallons of oil were being hidden underground.

by the KEEP STRONG Energy Research Unit

For the past eight months people have once again been the victims of the "great energy crisis." Everybody from the President of the United States to the gasoline dealer on the corner has their own theory on whether there is a shortage, who is to blame for it and why the price of oil has gone up so much.

This month the KEEP STRONG ENERGY RESEARCH UNIT presents some facts and findings usually hidden by the oil industry as we probe some of the most commonly asked questions.





WHAT IS OPEC?

OPEC stands for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and is composed of 13 oil producing nations in the Mideast and Africa. Formed in 1972 OPEC is a response to the large oil companies. Until OPEC's formation the oil companies could control both the price of oil and the amount of it being produced. Obviously, the oil industry would set high production quotas and low prices. Faced with a monopolistic oil industry the Mideast and African countries did the only logical thing. They formed a cartel and called it OPEC. Functioning like any other capitalist business, OPEC has a product in high demand and will sell it for whatever they can get for it.

Although OPEC sets the price structure for all of its members, it does not control the production of oil within the member countries or to whom the country can sell oil.

OPEC's oil is in demand because there is a lot of it and it is easily refined. Oil comes out of the ground in many different forms some of which can easily be made into refined products (called light) and some of which (heavy) takes more time and money to refine. Generally speaking, most off shore and domestic drilling yields heavy crude while OPEC's crude is considered light.

Since oil is what the economy of the OPEC nations is based on they naturally want to preserve it. There is only so much oil under the ground and they are going to get the most for what is left. But OPEC's prices

OIL

are ultimately determined by demand and that demand is set by the oil industry.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE OIL INDUSTRY AND OPEC?

The oil industry is a nation unto themselves. In fact, the combined assets of the 16 largest oil companies is greater than the majority of the countries of the world and could buy over 48 of the top 100 corporations listed in the *Fortune* 500.

Only these multi-national corporations have the technology to extract and refine great amounts of oil. The oil may be under OPEC land but they cannot get it out of the ground without the oil industry. Knowing this, the OPEC nations had to make a deal with the oil industry when OPEC first formed.

Certain oil companies would deal with certain OPEC members. They could extract a defined amount of crude oil at a determined price and since it was the oil companies' technology bringing the crude out of the ground, a certain percentage of the profits would remain in the hands of the oil industry. In other words, the industry was provided a legal kickback. So when OPEC raises its prices the industry makes out in two ways. First, they can charge higher prices for refined products and second, they get a larger kickback.

For example: Texaco, Exxon, Shell and Mobil comprise what is known as the Arabian Oil Company or ARAMCO. When OPEC first formed, ARAMCO kept 75 percent of all the profits. That being too great an amount for the Saudi Arabian Government it has since been cut to 40 percent. Using the last price hike as an example, the ARAMCO partners made 40 cents on every dollar of the price hike. Since the price rose about $6 a barrel and since somewhere in the neighborhood of 4 million barrels a day are imported, these oil companies stand to make about $9 million a day or a little over $3 billion this year, off the recent rise in prices.

Using these facts it is easy to see that the rise in OPEC's prices did not hurt the oil industry but helped it.

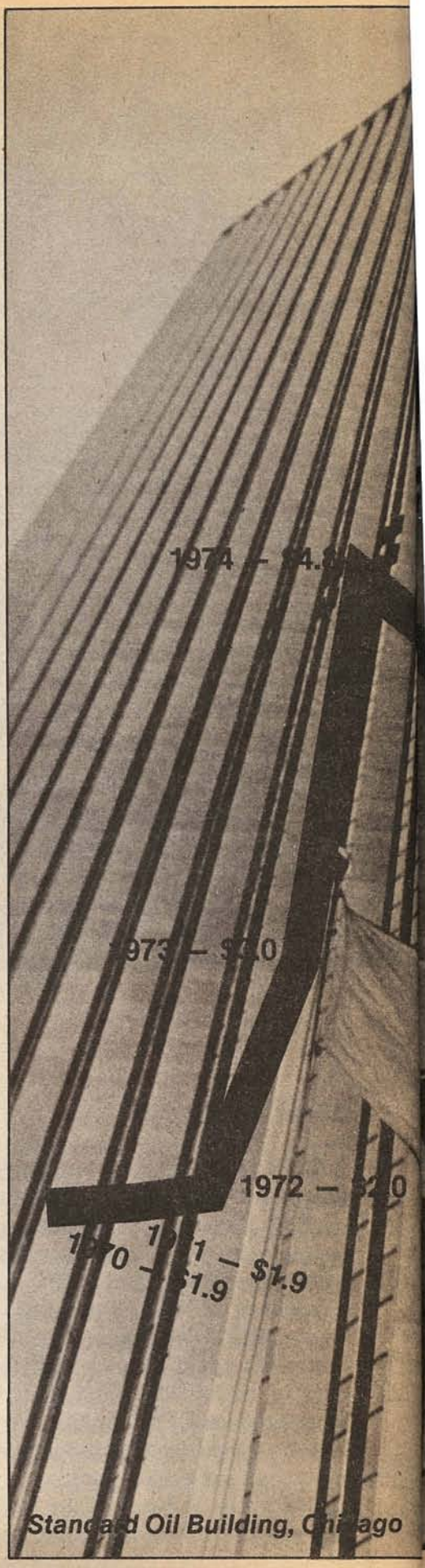
The last OPEC price hike came shortly after both the industry and the government had declared a shortage. Exactly why Carter seemed so surprised with the rise in price is a little confusing given the fact that an official shortage of crude oil in the U.S. would naturally raise the demand and consequently the price of oil from OPEC.

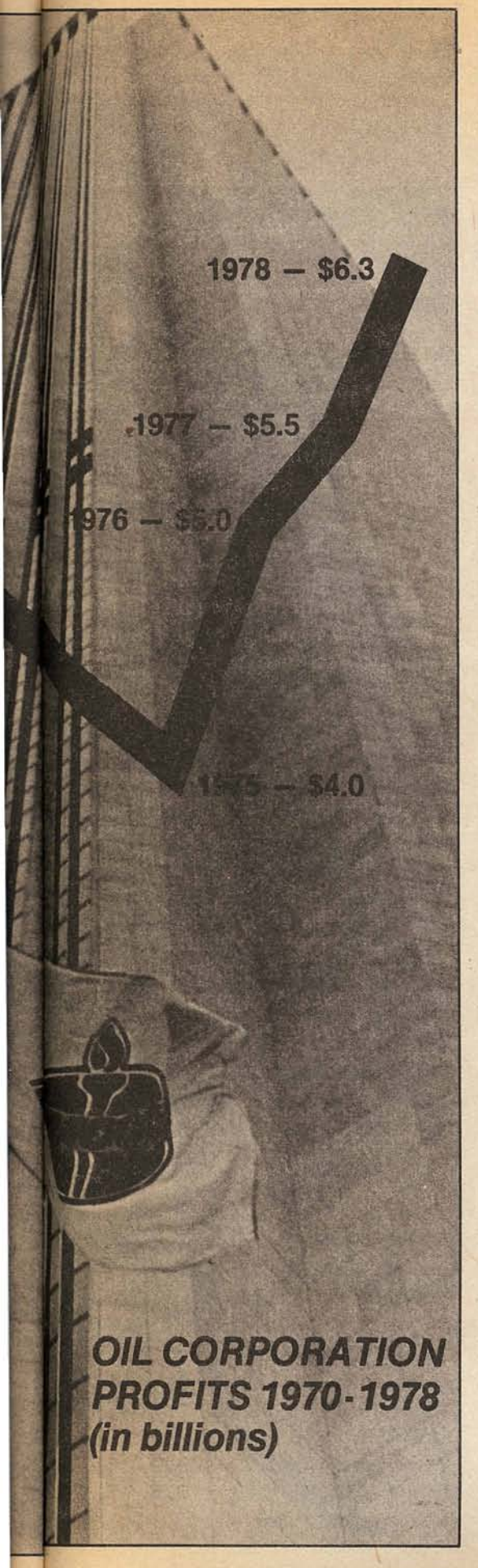
WAS AND IS THE SHORTAGE REAL?

Not only was there no shortage of crude oil in the first part of 1979, there was actually a surplus. In fact, there had been a surplus of crude oil for all of 1978 and herein lies the crux of the "energy crisis."

"We're not in the energy business. We're in the business of trying to use the assets entrusted in us by our shareholders in order to give them the best return on the money they have invested in the company."

The above statement by John E. Swearingen of Standard Oil of Indiana points more to the reason for the energy crisis than any other single statement. For in the summer





of 1978 oil companies were not making the profits they wanted to.

Federal government statistics show that there was more crude oil available in 1979 than in 1978 when there were no shortages and gas lines. This was because they had imported more oil in 1977 than was needed and were suffering from a "glut" in the market. The amount of oil was so great that the average price for gasoline in 1978 was lower than what the Department of Energy (DOE) allowed.

You might ask why the oil companies had put themselves in this situation. Why had they imported more oil than they had needed and lowered their own profits? Given the fact that generosity is not what the oil industry is most famous for, we have to look elsewhere. First, by increasing their demand from OPEC in 1977 they laid the foundation for the great price hike this year, and therefore, increasing their own profits. Secondly, and more importantly, with imported oil costing so much more they could demand decontrol of domestic oil prices.

All in all it was a nifty little scheme but it didn't work the first time around. In the fall of 1978, led by Shell Oil, the industry declared a shortage with drastic cuts made in deliveries to gasoline dealers around the country. But nasty publicity and the inability of the industry to substantiate its position forced the big oil companies to back off and restore deliveries to normal.

Now the industry was in a real bind. It had all kinds of oil, a lower domestic consumption rate than had been counted on and an angry mass of consumers and dealers. Then came a blessing in disguise. When the Iranian Revolution happened, the oil industry was saved. Now they had their shortage and the "communists" to blame at the same time. Although both the CIA and the U.S. Customs Bureau admit that imports continued to rise after the revolution in Iran, the oil industry and the Department of Energy claimed we had run out of oil.

Going into 1979 there not only was no shortage of oil — there was actually a surplus.

Actually, they had reallocated and misplaced a few hundred million barrels of oil. In addition to the normal supplies of crude oil the government established something called a "Strategic Petroleum Reserve." This reserve of crude oil is anything but strategic. This oil, which is not accounted for by either the DOE or the industry, is stored in huge salt domes in Louisiana. Billions of gallons of crude oil were dumped into the domes with none of it being "strategically available" because the domes are not equipped with pumps to get the oil back out.

Along with this mind boggling method of storing oil the companies did three other things. First they slowed down the speed of all of their tankers and in some cases rerouted them. The average speed of big tankers at the height of the "shortage" was actually cut in half and some tankers were ordered back to where they had come from before emptying all of their load. The net effect was millions of barrels of crude oil being transfered back and forth around the world.

Second, once the oil finally made it to a refinery less of it was processed. The industry lowered its refining rate from 91 percent in early

OIL

1978 to 84.6 percent in June of this year. Oil getting here was not being refined.

Lastly, the industry began to increase the amount of oil it was exporting to other countries around the world. Indeed, the industry reached an all time high in exports during the crisis. So while people were slowly going crazy in gas lines the oil companies were exporting, hiding and hoarding crude oil.

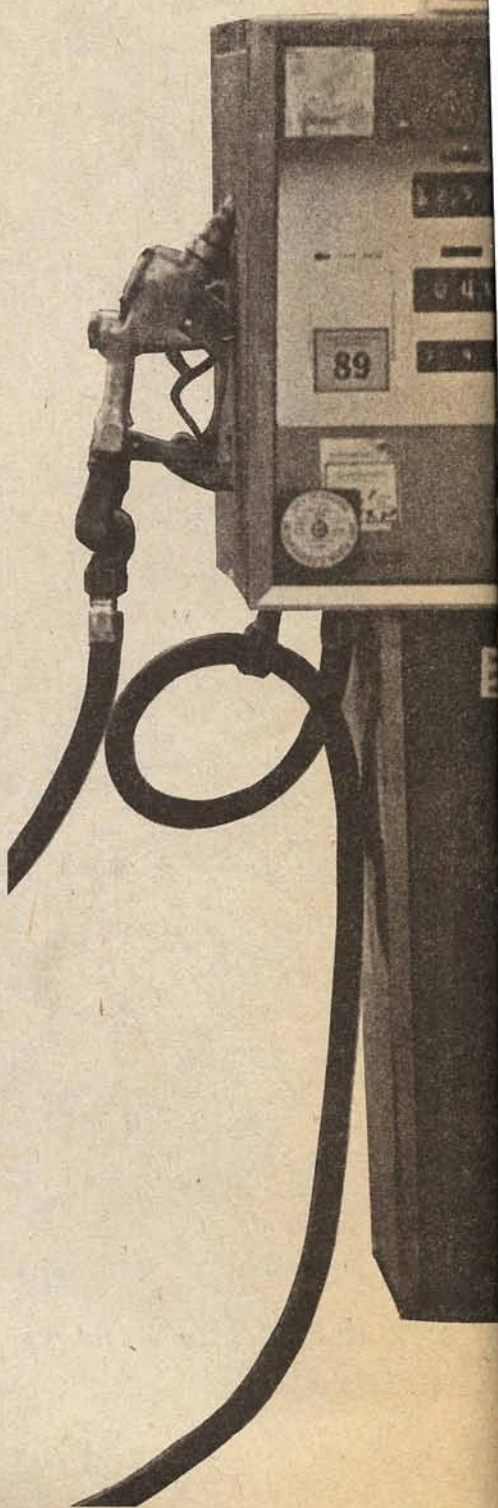
WHAT IS DECONTROL AND WHO BENEFITS FROM IT?

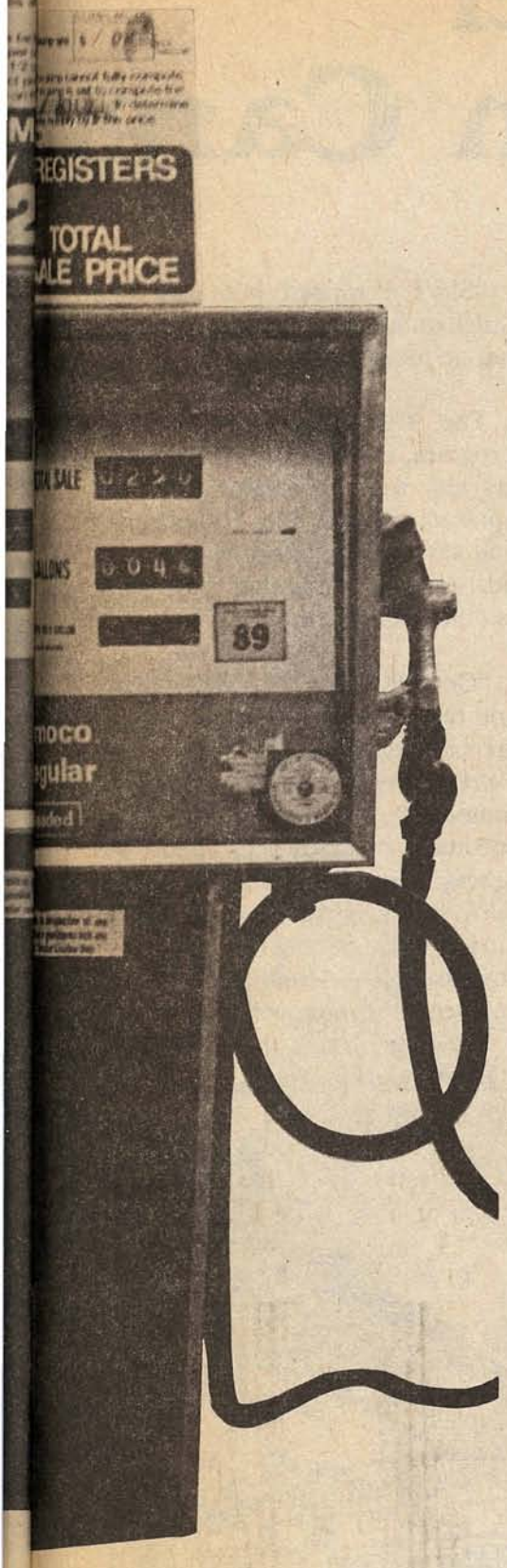
Since oil plays such a vital role in the national economy the government decided to impose price controls on all oil and its products produced in the United States. This included such things as gasoline and home heating oil. What this meant was that the oil companies would make less profit on the oil extracted in this country than on the imported oil. Naturally, the oil industry would like to make as much profit as possible on all oil — regardless of where it comes from.

When OPEC had its first big price hike in 1973 the industry saw its chance and began clamoring for decontrol of domestic oil. They said the low price they could charge for U.S. oil made it unprofitable to produce more of it and would eventually make the country dependent upon the "whims of foreign powers" in order to get oil. They promised that if controls were lifted domestic production would increase and the price of crude oil would stabilize itself. They lied.

At the end of 1973 certain domestic oil was decontrolled. All oil coming out of wells begun in the U.S. after 1973 could be charged a higher price. Since that time domes-

Since the oil industry has access to true statistics about the amount of oil produced and imported no one knows how much of each is actually there.





tic production has fallen another 1.6 percent and oil prices have certainly not stabilized. The only thing that decontrol accomplished was to create huge profits for the industry. Industry profits have risen 60 percent since 1973 with first quarter 1979 profits averaging well over 100 percent.

But the lack of total decontrol has not stopped all the oil companies from instituting their own decontrol.

Since only the oil industry has access to true statistics about the amount of oil produced and imported no one knows how much of each is actually there. In fact, the government no longer even pretends to know what is going on; it has ordered the Customs Bureau to cut out all inspections of arriving oil tankers.

From 1973 until now the oil industry has been charging the price of imported oil for domestic oil. According to industry statistics, there are two and one half billion more gallons of imported crude oil in U.S. refineries than have been imported. That is an overcharge to the consumer of over $2 million a day.

All decontrol of oil would do is make this practice legal. That's why the oil industry is so sure that the price of crude will stabilize. And why should they want a windfall profits tax when they pay no taxes at all now?

But unfortunately decontrol will mean more than just all crude oil costing the same. Certain refined products will no longer be controlled. Last year home heating oil was decontrolled and the price rose over 50 percent. If gasoline prices are decontrolled they will probably rise a similar amount. Even if the prices stay where they are now for another year you can be sure they will eventually be forced up again.

From 1973 on the oil industry has been illegally overcharging people by $2 million a day.

WHERE DOES ALL OF THIS LEAVE US?

The energy crisis seems to be here to stay. There is just too much money to be made from it. Former DOE chairman, James Schlesinger has publicly stated that gasoline should sell for $2 a gallon and President Carter says that only a crash program can save us. They ought to know.

It was the DOE that allowed oil companies to refine huge amounts of home heating oil once the price was decontrolled; thus allowing the industry to create a gasoline shortage. And it was Carter who after ranting and raving about "windfall profits" lifted two sets of taxes on imported oil netting the industry another $2 million a day.

The oil industry wants profits and that is profits at anybody's expense. The inflation resulting from these profits is something they can live with. Whether it is something the people of this country can live with remains to be seen. □

The Dealmaker and the Human Cargo

by Slim Coleman

I believe it was a Tuesday afternoon. The summer sun burning through the ozone made the uncollected garbage on the streets of Uptown sour and half-broken electric fans whirred and clanked off-beat time to the shouts, laughter and crying of hundreds of children in the 25-block area we call the Heart: the Heart of Uptown.

It seems we've looked into each other's faces a hundred times and into the bricks of each building a thousand times, to find solutions. The destruction of communities; the destruction of friendships, of families, of places where you know how to find a job and know how to get an education; brought us to Uptown and again it is driving us out. I don't know where.

This Tuesday afternoon I was looking for solutions, maybe just a better understanding of the problems, outside of the community. Our attorney had finally arranged an appointment with a downtown real estate man, a financial man, a Deal Maker. Hope and expectation take a back seat to determination for a while. I didn't really expect anything; maybe just to see how these guys' minds work.

In the Loop, up on the 28th floor his offices were affluent but informal, probably not too different from his living room or his study at home. Everything is comfortable and "tasteful." You are not questioned by the receptionist, you're greeted. The men at the top don't have to intimidate you, they evidently feel they can just buy you when they want you.

In his office, you sit around a table in comfortable chairs and the secretary serves cold drinks.

We began by briefly explaining what we were doing. The long years of planning and protesting and fighting in elections and in the courts had gotten a few government dollars for low and moderate income housing. It wasn't near enough. Then we asked for his advice. What would he do if he had our objectives in mind? What dealmaking could he put together for the poor and working people of Uptown.

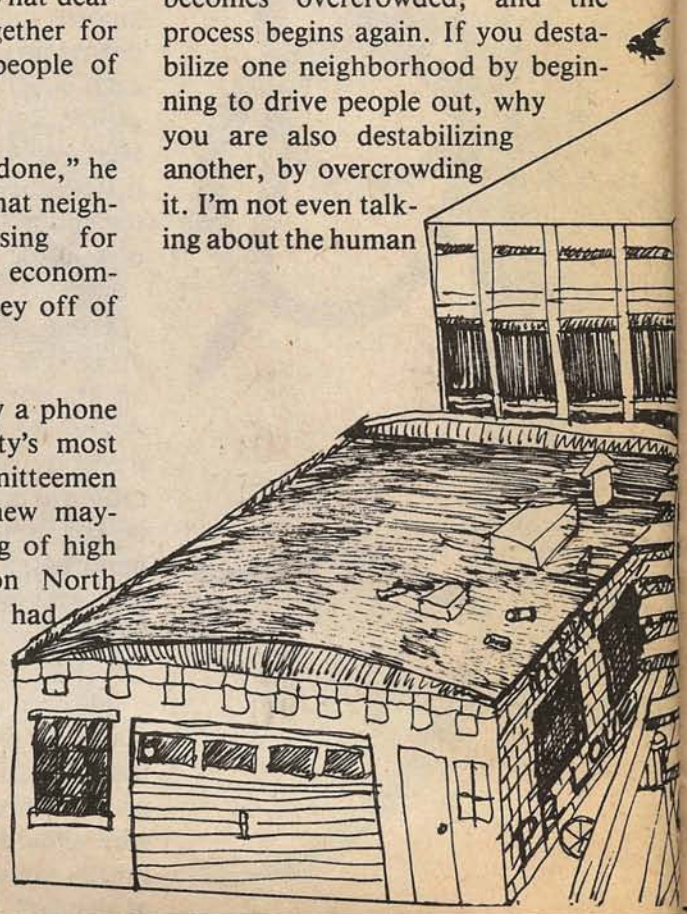
"Well it can't really be done," he said. "They can't stay in that neighborhood. Because housing for those people is not good economics. You can't make money off of it."

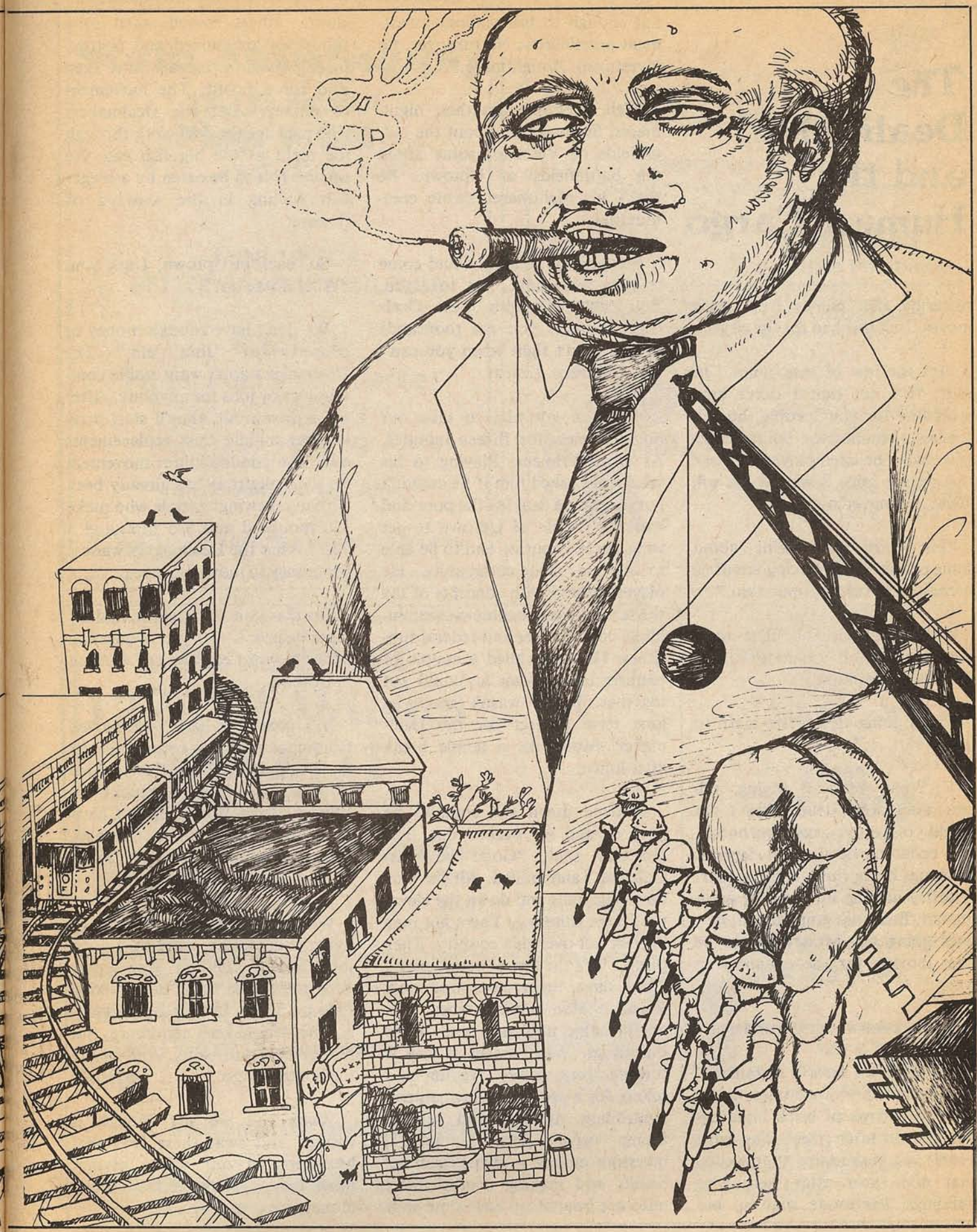
We were interrupted by a phone call from one of the city's most powerful ward committeemen complaining about the new mayor's lack of understanding of high finance. The $50 million North Loop Development deal had been announced and she was "screwing it up." The Dealmaker man called one of the downtown bank presidents. "What is she trying to do? How will she cover the shortfall?"

"She's a shrewd politician and quick on her feet," he said. "But she has no program."

The Dealmaker men have a program, evidently. The Dealmakers talk with the bankers and the contractors and the corporations and they put together "packages," deals where they and all these other people can make money.

"Getting back," I said. "Don't you think that stable neighborhoods are necessary to the city? Everytime we're moved, we are moved somewhere. Then that neighborhood becomes overcrowded, and the process begins again. If you destabilize one neighborhood by beginning to drive people out, why you are also destabilizing another, by overcrowding it. I'm not even talking about the human




L&D

The Dealmaker and the Human Cargo

suffering that comes from these moves. Isn't this bad for the city?"

"It's the law of economics," he said. "It's not that I don't have sympathy for your people, but it's the law of economics. Some people will always be unemployed, or have low paying jobs. Some people will always be moved out."

"But we're not talking about some people: we're talking about 60 percent of the city's population."

Another phone call. The ward boss insisted on speaking to the Dealmaker right away.

"She's going to have to learn to listen to us...."

"...What were we saying. Oh yes. You know, truthfully, I am afraid of stable neighborhoods. The economy of the city depends on things being fluid, turning over. Industry moving in, industry moving out. Buildings going down, new ones going up. Money has to be kept moving for the economy to work."

To work for whom, I wondered.

"Sometimes I have a nightmare," he continued. "Sometimes I see these long rows of brick buildings lining street after street. The same people live in the same apartments, year after year after year. The buildings deteriorate slightly, but not enough to bring about investment possibilities. No turnover, no investment. A nightmare."

Well, everyone has their nightmares. Some dream about the battlefields of Vietnam, some about the battlefields of Uptown. So that's his nightmare: stable communities.

We went on talking. I had come to gain knowledge, not to argue. You can't win with these Dealmakers unless you are thousands strong. Don't fight when you can't win. But learn. Learn.

We even got him to take our point of view for fifteen minutes. As an experiment. Playing to his vanity, we asked him if he couldn't put together a deal for the poor and working people of Uptown to get some decent housing and to be able to stay in their community. He played around with concepts of tax shelters and low-income condominiums, cooperatives and federal subsidies. He even called a couple of bankers to see what he could put together. But it wasn't exactly a long term project for the Dealmaker. More like a tennis break after lunch.

I wrote down the contacts he gave us and we walked out. The secretary said, "Good-bye, Mr. Coleman" and smiled. All the way down the halls and down the elevator I kept thinking. There are men like this all over this country. They think, "It's the law of economics." They have nightmares not only about stable communities but about stable industries and stable businesses. What makes money is turning over money. Buying and selling for a profit. Buying control, controlling markets and selling. Using other people's money, investors' money – giving them tax breaks and making profits. Steel mills are bought up and some shut down, others moved, then sold. Industries are moved and restructured, given a facelift and then sold for a profit. The movement of money. And the Dealmakers who package the deal work through the night as the big fish eats the smaller fish to be eaten by a bigger fish waiting in the seaweed of finance.

So, back in Uptown, I ask you, "What do we do?"

We don't have enough money or property to "Join 'em." The Dealmakers don't want stable communities or jobs for anybody. After we're driven out, they'll start driving our middle class replacements out. The condominium movement on the Lakefront has already been "urban renewing" people who make $20 thousand and $25 thousand a year! What the Dealmakers want is for money to move.

On the 28th floor you could almost believe it was just a question of the "laws of economics." But not in Uptown.

In Uptown we have been moved from community to community by the Dealmakers, from Puerto Rico to Chicago, from Kentucky to Chicago, from Wisconsin to Chicago, from Mississippi to Chicago, from job to job to no job. From one confused school to another.

We are cargo. We have dreams of living in one place, working a good job, raising children who know what the future holds and looking forward to it. In fact our dreams are the Dealmaker's nightmare. But his reality is our reality. And we are the human cargo.

When will we say enough is enough and swat these flies that buzz around our world saying: move money, make money, move money, make money....□

Stahl Auto Supply

1113 W. Belmont
Chicago, Ill. 60657
935-7335

TUNE UP FOR
BETTER GASOLINE MILEAGE

SPECIAL!
Plugs, Points, Condenser,
8 cyl. $13.69
6 cyl. $11.49

MOST AMERICAN CARS

10% off on any purchase with this coupon

PH. 734-5200

PRESCRIPTIONS
Carefully Compounded

Jeffery Pharmacy

Prescriptions – Cosmetics
Sick Room Supplies – Free Delivery

1958 E. 79th St.
Chicago, Ill.

E. SINGLETON
Registered Pharmacist

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES
401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 459, Chicago, Illinois 60611

EQUITABLE

RICHARD C. BROWNLOW
Agent

(312) 321-4984 Office
327-1529 Home

"We Support Community Pride"

Law Center
1220 W. Wilson
769-1411

BY APPOINTMENT

Clinic Hours
Mon. 11 am - 2 pm
Wed. 4 pm - 7 pm
Fri. 11 am - 2 pm

COLOR PASSPORT PHOTOS

WHILE YOU WAIT

the film stop

3312½ w. foster
539-4595

Old photos copied and restored.

The UPTOWN TENANT RIGHTS a legal clinic Center

mondays & wednesdays
10 to 6 pm
tuesdays, thursdays & fridays
10 to 4 pm
4802 north broadway
room 202 / 271-6601

assistance with tenant housing problems

sponsored by northeastern illinois university

ELLIS' NEW ERA BOOKSTORE

1954 E. 79th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60649
(312) 221-6312

CURTIS N. ELLIS II
WORLD BOOK — CHILDCRAFT
REPRESENTATIVE

"The Issue Is Brutality Against Latinos"

Chicano Movement Challenges Power Structure In Arizona

(Douglas, Cochise County, Ariz.) A coalition of Hispanic organizations has been focusing national attention on the prosecution of two White ranchers, charged with beating and brutalizing Mexican workers, here.

The National Coalition on the Hanigan Case has charged Patrick and Thomas Hanigan, sons of a wealthy Cochise County rancher and former Republican County Chairman, with kidnapping and torturing three workers from Mexico who had crossed the border looking for work.

Bernabe Herrera Mata, Eleazar Ruelas Zavala and Manuel Garcia Loya, residents of Agua Prieta, Mexico (Douglas' twin city – they are separated by little more than the border) crossed the border into Arizona on the morning of August 18, 1976. Later in the morning, as they trekked the 25 miles to a peanut farm where they knew they would find work, a pickup truck passed them. It stopped about a hundred feet down the road and then backed up. A young White man got out of the truck and forced the men at gunpoint to get into the camper attached to it. The men had long histories of being picked up by the Border Patrol. They assumed they would be turned over to the authorities and offered Patrick Hanigan no resistance.

The men were driven to a ranch where the driver was joined by two other men, Hanigan's brother and father. They were accused of stealing something from the ranch although none of them had ever been there before. They were then taken to the area off the road where they first encountered young Hanigan.

Writing for *Agenda, A Journal of Hispanic Issues,* Toni Breiter describes what happened next.

"While the elder Hanigan watched, the sons cut the clothes off their victims with a hunting knife. . . . Then, with some dried shrubs, a fire was started, which was fed by the clothes cut from the victims. . . . Once the ranchers had finished cutting off all the clothes, leaving the Mexicans naked, they began to cut their hair, pulling it taut and cutting it with the knife, as if they were shearing sheep. . . .

"A metal rod was found and heated in the fire. The rod was then passed close over the bodies of the Mexicans, causing them to scream and writhe in the dirt in an effort to get away. The rod never touched Manuel or Bernabe, but the Hanigans rubbed the hot rod along the soles of Eleazar's feet causing painful burns. With the ropes used to tie them, the victims were dragged one by one very close to the fire. The heat was intense and they feared being pushed into the flames. . . .

The elder Hanigan took the knife and threatened to castrate them all. He stared at Bernabe's genital area and said, 'I like your balls. . .to cut them off.'. . . .When Bernabe finished screaming the Hanigans cut him free from the ropes and said, 'Let's see how good you are at running.' As Bernabe ran he was shot and sprayed with bird pellet. . . he kept running and made it back across the border. . . .

"The Hanigans dragged Eleazar to an *arroyo* and attempted to hang him. . . .He managed to support himself against the sides of the *arroyo* and the ranchers cut him down and told him to run. As he ran away the elder Hanigan shot at him while his son chased him in the pickup truck.

"Finally Manuel was cut loose and told to run. He was also sprayed with bird pellet. When he finally made it back across the border he blacked out. The three did not see each other again until they were treated at the civil hospital in Agua Prieta. Over 125 pellets were removed from Manuel's back, over 50 from Bernabe's."

"While the elder Hanigan watched, the sons cut the clothes off their victims with a hunting knife. . .they began to cut their hair, pulling it taut and cutting it with the knife, as if they were shearing sheep. . . . "

Superior Court Justice Anthony Deddens refused to issue a warrant for the three Hanigans indicted on 33 felony counts.

On August 27, 1976 a Cochise County Grand Jury returned three separate, 11 felony count indictments against the Hanigan brothers and their father. The following day Superior Court Justice Anthony J. Deddens refused to issue warrants for the arrest of the Hanigans facing a total of 33 felony charges, including kidnap, assault and robbery. Instead, he issued a summons notifying them of their first court appearance. Deddens was later forced to disqualify himself from the trial, when he admitted that he had been a longtime friend and business acquaintance of the Hanigan family.

Arizona ranchers, like the one pictured above, have been in control of county courthouses for generations.

It would be a year before the Hanigans would come to trial. By September of 1977 George Hanigan,

the father, had died of a heart attack. The defense attorneys had been granted seven separate continuances. The city of Douglas and much of Cochise County had been whipped into racist hysteria in a bold attempt by local law enforcement officials to excuse the torture of the three Mexican workers.

A September 11, 1976 article by a staff writer for *The Douglas Dispatch* asked an official of the Cochise County Sheriff's office about the county's rising burglary rate. The sheriff responded, "Ninety percent of the break-ins are traceable to Mexico. I don't know how many times we tracked them to the border fence. . . .Most of our problems have come from Mexico. . . ." Drexel Atkinson, supervisor of the area Border Patrol was even more blunt in the same article, "Every illegal alien is a potential burglar. The Border Patrol has apprehended almost 5,000 potential burglars in the Douglas area in the past year."

In a county that is 50 percent Chicano, the Hanigan brothers were tried in front of an all White Jury. The trial lasted 24 days and ended in the ranchers being acquitted on all charges. Mexican Consul Raul Aveleyra expressed the communities' outrage the same day, "This cynical jury has just declared open season on all undocumented workers."

"When you talk about undocumented workers, you're talking about the most highly exploited group of workers in this country."

In Chicago, KEEP STRONG spoke to Jose Bracamonte, a local representative of the National Coalition on the Hanigan Case. "We organized the national coalition when it became clear that there wasn't going to be any justice from the state or the courts in Cochise County. It wasn't any surprise to us. After the acquittal we knew we had to do two things.

"First, we had to keep the local organizing up in order to keep the pressure on. Organizing the people in Douglas was the most important. But we were up against a powerful structure. We had to get national support and focus attention across the country on the case.

Drexel Atkinson, supervisor of the area Border Patrol was even more blunt, "Every illegal alien is a potential burglar. The Border Patrol has apprehended almost 5,000 potential burglars in the Douglas area in the past year."

"This case embodies some of the most important issues facing the Chicano and the entire Latino community. Every time there has been an economic downturn in this country in the last century, undocumented workers have been targeted. When you talk about undocumented workers you're talking about the most highly exploited group of workers in this country. They are, off and on, a key segment of the profits of this country's economy. The big growers and agricultural industries know that. That's why they ran a bracero program from 1942 to 1964 and invited hundreds of thousands of Mexicans to come across the border and work. When they don't need cheap labor anymore, then they start talking about burglaries, and how undocumented workers are taking jobs from citizens.

"Listen, we don't make the economic policies. We're not doing the hiring and firing. It's a complete and total distortion to blame us for unemployment.

"The other issue is brutality against Latinos. You want to know why we jammed Civiletti (Benjamin Civiletti, newly appointed Attorney General of the United States) at the hearings on his appointment? We've given the Justice Department over 60 cases, with documentation, of

police and other law enforcement personnel beating, torturing and murdering Latinos in every major city in the country. These are civil rights violations. The Justice Department refuses to move on them. From Los Angeles to Denver to Chicago to Houston to Philadelphia to New York, there is a rampage going on by police against Latinos. This is an issue of vital importance to the entire Latino community in the United States.

"We had to fight with the Justice Department for two years before they agreed to prosecute the Hanigan Brothers. The community researched the law that they (the Justice Department) is using. We raised the $3,000 to buy the transcript from the trial because they wouldn't spend the money. Then they called us to see if they could borrow it. The Justice Department, until recently, said they didn't have jurisdiction to investigate or prosecute the Hanigans.

"You see this is not a complicated issue. The question is did the Hanigans obstruct the civil rights of these three workers. The answer is yes and the people are demanding that they be punished and justice be served to the Chicano community."

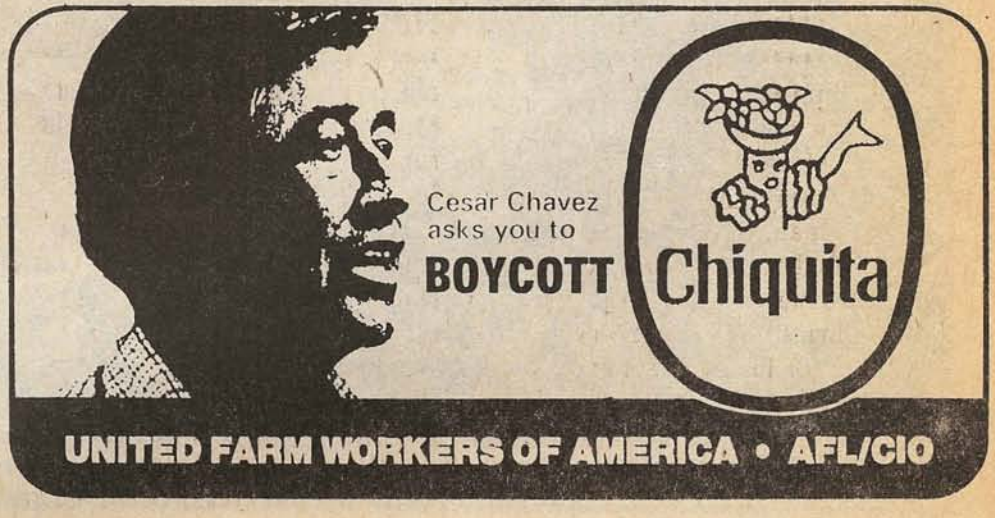
On June 21, the United States Attorney General's office announced it was convening a Federal Grand Jury in southern Arizona to probe into the torture and beating of the three workers. Bracamonte pointed out that this does not necessarily mean that the government will prosecute the Hanigans. To the Chicano and Mexicano residents of Douglas and Agua Prieta and to 11 million Latinos spread across the United States it is another small step in the long road to justice. □

United Farm Workers Boycott Chiquita Banana

(La Paz, California) A nationwide boycott of Chiquita Bananas and iceberg lettuce will set the stage for the next round between the courageous United Farm Workers (UFW) and western bankers and agribusinessmen. UFW President Cesar Chavez has announced the reorganization of the boycott as a "save the union response" to the brutality the growers have let loose against striking farm workers since the contracts in lettuce expired in January.

In a statement issued earlier this month, the union declared, "What began as a strike to win decent wages and benefits has become a strike to save the union. Instead of engaging the farm workers union in good faith negotiations, the employers have sent professional recruiters to three states, Mexico and Central America to recruit strikebreakers. . . .Rural police agencies, heavily armed private security guards and armed company foremen have clubbed, beaten, maced and tear gassed peaceful pickets. The Ku Klux Klan announced it has stationed its members among growers' supporters and offered attack-trained dogs and 'security forces' to battle strikers."

The latest strike began in January when the union's industry-wide lettuce contracts expired. These were the contracts signed for the first time in history by growers in 1975. Boycott organizers explain that the gains of the 1975 contracts have been quickly eaten by soaring inflation in the cost of living. The medical and pension benefits are meager when compared to similar contracts the growers have with other unions. Farm workers making $3.70 an hour were making less



in real wages then they were in 1970. The lettuce growers were paying 16 cents an hour into the UFW medical funds but $1.00 an hour into the Teamsters medical fund. The pension fund also received 15 cents an hour while the Teamster fund was getting over a dollar an hour.

The union's 5,000 lettuce workers expected the new round of negotiations to be difficult but believed that at the very least the growers were resigned to the fact that agricultural labor would be represented by a militant union. Very soon after the contract expired, they realized their mistake.

On February 10, 1979 UFW member Rufino Contreras was shot in the face with a .38 caliber bullet when he and a small group of unarmed strikers attempted to speak with some strikebreakers in a lettuce field near El Centro, California. The three foremen who were accused of firing 80 shots at Contreras and his co-workers were arrested and released on $7,000 bail. At the first hearing on the murder charges Imperial County Judge Lenhart stopped listening to witnesses in the middle of the hearing and dismissed the charges for "lack of evidence." On June 11, violence erupted again when strikebreakers from Sun Harvest (owned by United Brands, the world's largest producer of iceberg lettuce) attacked the UFW picket lines and left three strikers beaten and one member stabbed in the back.

"What began as a strike to win decent wages and benefits has become a strike to save the union."

The growers, who had been laughing at the farm workers' demands, broke off negotiations completely after the shooting incident in February. The union has explained that while the growers have tried to use President Carter's 7 percent wage control as an argument against increasing wages and benefits, "low wage workers (including farm workers) are exempt from the controls," and perishables, like lettuce, are exempt from any price guidelines.

In recent months boycott organizers have filtered out of California to major cities across the country to

Under the terms of the old contract, lettuce workers receive 16 cents an hour into their medical funds from the growers, while the teamster medical funds get $1 an hour.

organize the boycott. Chiquita bananas, the principal product of United Brands, has been targeted. The union hopes to organize shoppers to boycott iceberg lettuce from California as well.

A recent statewide march by the Farm Workers ended at a rally in Salinas attended by 40 thousand farm workers and their supporters. At the rally Chavez announced that the strike would expand to growers who had never signed contracts or had contracts that were about to run out.

On August 14, the union announced it had signed a contract with the Meyer Tomato Company, one of California's largest. The new contract included a provision for paid representatives in the fields to settle workers' grievances, unheard of before now. It also restricted the use of mechanization in the tomato fields to its present level. Mechanization has been named as one of the greatest causes of the shrinking demand for tomato pickers. The agreement also included substantial wage and benefit increases for farm workers covered by the contract. □

The statewide march ended with a rally in Salinas of 40,000 farm workers and supporters.

Tenneco: Reward For Robbery

(Washington, D.C.) Corporate giant Tenneco Inc., based in Houston, Texas, has proved once again that the American system of justice just might be off balance.

The huge worldwide company owns Case Inc. (one of the world's eight largest manufacturers of heavy equipment), Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company (the world's largest shipbuilder) and Tenneco Oil (among the top 20 refiners and marketers of oil products in the world), among other things.

Tenneco employs 104 thousand people, sold $8.7 billion in goods and equipment in 1978 and cleared $500 million after expenses. In spite of a legal staff numbering in the thousands, the company has been caught stealing twice in the last year.

A federal grand jury in Washington is now investigating the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock subsidiary of Tenneco for making fraudulent claims on its contract to build 14 submarines for the U.S. Navy. The shipbuilder tried to charge the government an extra $884 million for the ships, around $700 million more than government investigators believed it was worth. A former director of the company reported to a Joint Congressional Committee that Tenneco was "ripping off the government pure and simple."

A former director of the company reported that Tenneco was "ripping off the government pure and simple."

On July 30, 1979, Tenneco faced a federal judge and pleaded guilty to three counts of evading federal regulations on interstate shipments of natural gas. (The purpose of these regulations is to guarantee that gas prices are kept under control.) The company admitted that it concealed the use of interstate pipelines to avoid federal price controls, on several occasions in the past ten years.

Oil industry watchers agree that the profits from these illegal maneuvers ran into tens of millions of dollars coming directly from the pockets of users of natural gas. The judge fined Tenneco slightly more than one million dollars on the five felony convictions and one misdemeanor. The same day, however, the U.S. Navy saw fit to award the Newport News Shipbuilding subsidiary a $59.3 million contract to refuel, overhaul and test the submarine, U.S.S. James Madison. □

Nuclear 'Accidents' Endanger Navajos

(Gallup, New Mexico) When 100 million gallons of radioactive water and 1,100 tons of radioactive rock burst into the Rio Puerco River in early July here, just about everybody was surprised.

This is an area where uranium is mined and milled in a big way. Uranium prices have soared over the past seven years from $6 a pound to $55 a pound. The largest known concentration of uranium is in an area called Church Rock which has 34 mines and 5 mills. The federal government has approved construction of several dozen new mines and at least 12 more mills in the next 10 years. At least one half of the uranium consumed or exported by the U.S. comes from this area.

The use of tailings in construction has given the Navajo community the highest rate of cancer in the world.

Much of this giant operation belongs to United Nuclear Corporation. The directors of United Nuclear were definitely surprised. The accident was their fault. The poisonous water and rock spilled out of a pond owned by United Nuclear. The pond was supposed to hold the water used in milling and cooling uranium. The water, after being used, is very radioactive. The rock called tailings, is what remains after the raw uranium ore has been processed into fuel. The tailings retain 85 percent of their original radioactivity. The rocks' poison is released in a gas called radon.

The contaminated rock and water had been kept from the flowing Rio Puerco by a dam at the edge of the pond. The dam broke. The state's Environment and Improvement Department (EID) was even more surprised. They had spent the last five years assuring everybody that nothing like this would ever happen. And they are still apologizing for telling the Navajos who live around Gallup that it was safe to build homes and schools out of uranium tailings. Health authorities have since acknowledged that the use of tailings in construction has given this Navajo community the highest rate of cancer in the world. The EID advised residents in the Gallup area "not to drink or touch the water in the Rio Puerco or allow livestock near it."

Next to find themselves surprised was the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The commission was still wiping the egg of its face, after it showed up at Three Mile Island "a day late with its pants down," and was forced to admit complete ignorance about the dangers and excesses rampant in the nuclear industry. Although the spill was so huge it caused the river to overflow in some places. The official NRC position was that "only close and continual exposure could cause health hazards."

Also surprised were Gulf, Exxon, Mobil and Continental Oil Companies. The super oil corporations have recently invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the area to ensure that they kept a good selling position in the expanding nuclear market. The corporations and several others are defendants in a suit filed by 93 individual Navajos along with the Navajo Ranchers Council and environmental groups seeking to stop the government from leasing Navajo land to mining and oil companies for uranium exploration.

Most of the land which falls under present plans to expand uranium production is now used by the Navajo sheepherders, for grazing.

About the only people who weren't surprised were the Navajos who live all around Gallup and once owned all the land that the uranium mines and mills now occupy. Norm Dean, an attorney for the Navajos explained that the recent spill again demonstrates what the Navajos have said for the last 10 years, "The uranium industry has had a serious environmental impact on the area and the people." And no one seems to want to recognize it. □

They are still apologizing for telling the Navajos who live around Gallup that it was safe to build homes and schools out of uranium tailings.

Police Shooting Angers Black Community

(Birmingham, Alabama) The June 22nd shooting of a young Black woman by a White policeman set off the largest series of protests in this southern city since the 1960's. Twenty-year old Bonita Carter was shot in Kingston, an outlying community of Birmingham, when she wandered into an incident that had started hours before.

Reverend Abraham Wood, of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Birmingham, explained to KEEP STRONG that there had been a fight between a Black customer and a White clerk in Jerry's 7-11 Store in Kingston earlier in the day on the 22nd. The customer returned in the evening with a gun and started firing into the store. When his fire was returned by other clerks from inside the store, the assailant ran across the street, leaving his car in the 7-11 parking lot.

From the other side of the street, the assailant named Pickett, pleaded with people who were watching the

Since the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and before, White racist police departments of Birmingham and other southern cities have stood opposed to the rights of Black people and used their badges to enforce their opposition.

Stating that he was afraid that police would strike in support of Officer Sands, Mayor David Vann refused to remove Sands.

incident to get his car out of the lot so he could drive away. Bonita Carter entered the automobile and began to drive it from the lot when the police arrived.

Moving towards Pickett's car with their guns drawn, they were told, "There's a chick in there. She's unarmed. The man with the gun is gone," by the crowd that had gathered by now.

Within feet of the car Patrolman George Sands shouted, "Police officers!" Ms. Carter, who had been lying down in the front seat, sat up quickly and the police fired four times killing her. The incident angered the Birmingham Black community. A number of disturbances were reported over the next few days, climaxing with a shoot-out between Black residents, Birmingham police and the Ku Klux Klan.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, with several other community organizations, has demanded the dismissal of Offi Sands. The police claim that th went to the store to get something cold to drink and had no knowledge of a shooting. But witnesses state that the police raced to the scene and

Reverend Woods believes that the police knew that the store clerk had been shot by Pickett and were looking for revenge when they shot Bonita Carter.

Stating that he was afraid that police would strike in support of Sands, Mayor David Vann refused to remove the officer. Instead, he set up a citizens review board to hear evidence and advise him. The board determined that Sands had shot the woman without good cause. Vann, who was elected four years ago on a liberal program by a Black majority, ignored the board's recommendation. He turned the complaint over to the Birmingham Police Department's Internal Affairs Division, which later cleared Sands of any wrongdoing.

On July 20, 5,000 residents of Birmingham marched through the city to demand that Sands be removed and that the police department's hiring practices reflect the racial make-up of the city. While Birmingham's Black population makes up more than 50 percent of the city, the 698-member police force includes only 58 Blacks.

While Birmingham's Black population makes up more than 50 percent of the city, there are only 58 Blacks on the city's 698-member police force.

Sands has since taken a leave of absence and mayor Vann is now promising that Sands will not be allowed back on the force. But to many of the city's 138,000 Black residents the real problem lies in the racist make-up of the police force. □

In the 1960's Birmingham was the scene of militant, organized resistance to racism.

Veterans Form Agent Orange Task Force

(New York, N.Y.) Representatives of several dozen church, veteran, scientific and public interest organizations announced the formation of the National Veterans' Task Force on Agent Orange in mid-July here.

Agent Orange was one of the chemical defoliants used by U.S. troops to destroy jungles and crops in Vietnam. More than 2.5 million veterans may have been exposed to it and thousands of complaints from Vietnam veterans have been received by the Veterans Administration and other veterans organizations.

While the chemical industry says that the substance kills only certain plants and has no harmful effects on humans, organizers of the coalition maintain that exposure to the chemical can cause a higher incidence of cancer, impotency, deformed and stillborn children as well as vision problems and other weaknesses. Veterans who have filed complaints state that they have been exposed to Agent Orange through food, water and air while in Vietnam.

Ron DeYoung, representative of the Chicago-based Concerned Veterans Against Toxins, and a spokesman for the Agent Orange Task Force, explained that the coalition had to form as a result of the

Veterans Administration's refusal to do its job of representing veterans. Two thousand Vietnam veterans have gone to the V.A. with Agent Orange complaints, but over 10,000 have contacted other veterans organizations with problems that may be traced back to Agent Orange. The Veterans Administration has refused to run extensive tests on these people." Many observers believe that the V.A. is trying to cover up a widespread problem caused by the military's negligence.

Longtime critics of the VA point to the loss of over half a million medical records for the "lack of medical evidence."

DeYoung described the purpose of the task force as gathering information to provide enough medical evidence to prove that Agent Orange is the cause of widespread health problems of hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans. The task force will work with the American Health Foundation, based in New York, to develop a questionnaire which will be distributed to veterans across the country. The body of information that comes from the questionnaires should force the V.A. to act decisively on the problem, according to spokespersons for the group.

Meanwhile, the Veterans Administration has been defensive about the problem. Dr. Paul Haber, Veterans Administration researcher on health-related effects of herbicides, has said that the administration has sent an Agent Orange directive to all V.A. hospitals and regional offices. But he has qualified his statement saying that, "There is not enough evidence to prove that Agent Orange caused the problems claimed by veterans." Charles Pucharsky, director of compensation and pension service for the V.A. has said the V.A. has "difficulty" processing Agent Orange claims due to a "lack of medical evidence." But longtime critics of the bureaucracy ridden V.A. point to the loss of over half a million medical records as probably the best reason for the "lack of medical evidence."

The formation of the National Task Force was welcomed by senators and congressmen in Washington. Senator Charles Percy (R-Ill.), sponsor of a Senate bill mandating HEW to conduct a comprehensive study of the chemical's effects, focused his anger directly at the V.A. "It is wholly unacceptable that veterans from all over the country should have to come together to organize themselves into a lobbying group to do what the Veterans Administration is already mandated by law to do."

DeYoung expressed the feelings of hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Veterans who have fought the giant veterans bureaucracy for pension, medical services and educational benefits for half a dozen years, "We are angry and we are disappointed. Our reasons for being here are another example of how the Vietnam veterans have been abandoned and forgotten by the Government that sent them over there."□

1217 W. Wilson
Chicago, Illinois 60640
784-4450
Sid & Ted

Uptown Cut rate Liquors
1255 W. Wilson
LO1-0001
Coolest Beer In Town

ALAN'S SHOES

BACK TO SCHOOL SALE

4653 N. BROADWAY ☆ 784-9035

MICHAEL'S
1136 W. Wilson

No matter where you go in the city – still the Best Hot Dog

A&W SNACK SHOP
1104 W. Lawrence
In the "Aragon"
American & Indo-Pakistan Fast Food Sandwiches

Weekdays	Friday, Saturday	Sunday
7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m.	8 a.m. to 3 a.m.	11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Need help with your drug problem?

UPTOWN COMMUNITY CLINIC, INC.
Methadone Detoxification
Outpatient Services
Counseling • Abstinence Therapy

4536 N. Broadway
728-1604

Intake Coordinator
H. Duke Elligan
Intake Hours: 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Mon. - Fri.

"PEOPLE'S FILM FESTIVAL"
10 films this fall you will want to see again...

Starting in September –
Saturdays – 8 p.m.

$2.50 at the door
$20 season pass

Sept. 15 – **"Klute"**
Sept. 22 – **"The Learning Tree"**

All films shown at Shimer College
Uptown Center
4833 N. Broadway

Co-sponsored by Shimer College and KEEP STRONG Magazine
For more information call 769-0551 or 769-2087

Stripping in the home
All-Off Strippers
1011 W. Argyle
Chicago
334-3000

ASK FOR DOLLY

Also Wood & Metal Stripping, Refinishing, Caning

SAVE SAVE

Hal's MEAT CITY
1224 W. WILSON

Boxed Meats at Big Savings
Save up to 40%
3, 4, 5 and 6 lb. boxes
Steaks, Chops, Ribs, Sausage
Hamburgers Patties, Bacon & More

HURRY ON DOWN!

Tues - Fri: 12 noon to 7 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 to 5 p.m.

SAVE SAVE

PARAMOUNT DRUGS

1231 W. Wilson
Chicago, Ill. 60640

Welfare Prescriptions Filled Here

The Boozoory
"A friendly place to drink"

Broadway at Leland

ZIMBABWE

(Lusaka, Zambia) Faced with the increasing prospect of a Patriotic Front military victory in Zimbabwe, Great Britain, the former colonial power which controlled the country, has agreed to convene a conference to rewrite the constitution of Zimbabwe in order to guarantee genuine majority rule.

In a meeting of the Commonwealth Nations held in Zambia, Great Briatin formally agreed to a proposal put forth by Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, one of the front line states assisting the revolution in Zimbabwe. The proposal called for an immediate cease-fire which would be internationally supervised; that Great Britain immediately convene a conference to rewrite the constitution, and that free elections be held, supervised by Great Britain with the Commonwealth nations serving as observers.

Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere put forth the proposal calling for the constitution to be rewritten and a new free election to be held in Zimbabwe.

Margaret Thatcher stated that Britain wouldn't recognize the new government of Muzorewa until the "defective constitution" was rewritten.

Margaret Thatcher, prime minister of Great Britain, stated, for the first time, that her government wouldn't recognize the new government of Abel Muzorewa until the "defective constitution" was rewritten. She said, that her government specifically objected to provisions in the constitution which made it possible for the White minority to block all constitutional changes and allowed Whites to retain control of the civil service and the military. Thatcher stated that her government's policy would be based on a commitment to genuine majority rule, and on a constitution comparable to constitutions they have agreed to with other countries.

Bishop Abel Muzorewa, puppet Prime Minister, of the newly formed government of Zimbabwe Rhodesia, at first called the proposal an insult to him and the people of his country who participated in the recent elections. (See KEEP STRONG, August, 1979.) Later, under heavy pressure from Great Britain, the bishop agreed to attend the conference which will be held on September 10.

Meanwhile Johsua Nkomo, speaking on behalf of the Patriotic Front, stated that they would not participate in any cease-fire with the current government until there was a complete transfer of power. Nkomo did state, however, that he and Robert Mugabe, co-leader of the Patriotic Front have agreed to attend the British-sponsored conference. He said, however, that it would not be a constitutional conference but rather a conference between two peoples involved in an armed conflict. Nkomo stated that the Patriotic Front shared legal authority with Great Britain, the former colonial power in Zimbabwe, since they now controlled over one third of the country. □

NIGERIA:

British Petroleum Co. Punished For South African Deal

(Lagos, Nigeria) Nigeria, second largest producer and exporter of oil in the world, moved quickly to penalize the British Petroleum Company Royal Dutch Steel Group, when they were caught trading with South Africa.

In early July the Nigerian government announced that it would reduce the oil supply to British Petroleum by 100,000 barrels per day.

Two weeks later the government announced its plan to nationalize

(take over) the British company's leases and holdings in Nigeria.

A spokesman for the Nigerian consulate in New York explained, "You know there must be agreements between the host country (Nigeria) and companies who want to do business in Nigeria. One of these agreements, of course, is that they have to obey our rules and regulations. They agreed that they would not sell oil to South Africa. We don't allow companies to do business in Nigeria if they trade with South Africa.

"British Petroleum violated this agreement. They were trading with South Africa. This was proven beyond all reasonable doubt. A tanker that had been at one of our ports was observed docked at a South African port. Why was the ship there, if they had no business with the South Africans? And the Bingham Report, issued by a Tribunal of the British Government, concluded that British Petroleum had been having transactions with the South Africans for years in violation of our sanctions."

"We don't allow companies to do business in Nigeria if they trade with South Africa."

Most of the independent African nations and all of the members of OPEC have maintained an economic boycott against South Africa in protest of that government's policy of apartheid – racial inferiority, segregation and slave labor of Black Africans. □

VIETNAM:

Normalize Relations Congressmen Urge

(New York, N.Y.) Two delegations of Congressmen from the United States that visited Hanoi in August returned to report that the Vietnamese expressed a strong desire to normalize relations with the United States.

At a time when Vietnam is coming under criticism for the mass exodus of the "boat people" and the presence of its soldiers in neighboring Kampuchea, two Democratic representatives from New York, Lester Wolff and Benjamin Rosenthal led separate delegations to meet and talk with Vietnamese leaders. Rep. Rosenthal, at an August 11 press conference, declared that the best way to help refugees from Vietnam would be to get the U.S. back on a "fast track toward normalization," with Vietnam.

Another member of the delegation, Rep. George Miller from California, explained that Vietnam's economic problems were the principal cause for the exodus of refugees. He attacked U.S. economic policy towards Vietnam and specifically pointed to the U.S. trade embargo (government policy prohibiting trade with another country) against Vietnam contributing to the plight of the "boat people." Rep. Miller promised that he would formally ask President Carter to not renew the embargo when it expires in September.

While Rep. James Scheuer called for "immediate normalization of relations" with Vietnam, Mr. Rosenthal said he would recommend that the U.S. open pre-normalization liaison offices in Vietnam. He went on to note that Hanoi had dropped its demands for war reparations as a condition to returning to normal diplomatic relations and urged that the U.S. not impose other preconditions. □

IRELAND:

Thousands Protest British Troops In Ireland

(London, England) Some 10,000 people demonstrated here August 12 to mark the 10th anniversary of sending British troops to Northern Ireland. The action was the largest protest in British history against the military occupation.

Ex-British soldiers formerly stationed in Ireland headed the march, which began at Hyde Park, wound past the Houses of Parliament and ended with a rally near the Thames River. Long-time activist in the Irish struggle Bernadette Devlin-McAliskey pointed out that the action was the first time a broad range of groups sponsored a protest against British troops in Ireland.

Since the introduction of troops 10 years ago, 1,900 people have been killed and 120,000 injured, according to rally organizers. Some 14,000 British troops still remain in Northern Ireland.

Reprinted from the Guardian

HAITI

(Miami, Fla.) The brutal drowning of a mother and five children a quarter mile off the coast of Florida has once again turned attention to the plight of thousands of Haitian nationals fleeing their native Haiti. They come on homemade boats and rafts. Or they pay private "middlemen" hundreds of dollars, earned by their relatives in the United States, to arrange secret passage to the U.S.

Most come to the United States by way of the Bahamas, where dozens of middlemen patrol the Haitian ghettos offering to arrange passage for Haitians trying to get to the United States to join their loved ones.

Eliane Lorfils, a 30-year-old woman and her five children were thrown overboard by the two-man crew of the ship they had hired to carry them to the U.S. They had paid the owner of the boat $400 per person to transport them. A quarter mile off the coast of Florida the crewmen became frightened by a spotlight from a police car. The Lorfils family and 12 other passengers were thrown overboard, at gunpoint.

Unable to find work in their country, thousands of Haitians have filtered into the United States in the last few years. Most have requested political asylum asking that they not be deported back to Haiti. Haiti is run by a right-wing dictator named Duvalier, who inherited the position from his father. The agricultural economy is controlled by a few families that have been in power for generations and unemployment reaches over 50 percent.

Off the coast of Florida the crewmen became frightened by a spotlight. The Lorfils family and 12 others were thrown overboard at gunpoint.

The refugees come here looking for work because they cannot survive in their country. They are forced to try to enter the U.S. secretly because the State Department will not recognize their claims for political ayslum.

A June 21 report by a team of investigators from the State Department reported that the refugees' claim for asylum were not legitimate. The team found "evident widespread poverty and overcrowded conditions and enormous numbers of able-bodied, employment aged bystanders in towns and villages." But the report declared that as insufficient reason to grant asylum to Haitians. "Economic motives, however admirable, do not translate into a right to asylum. Barring a legislative change, individuals in these circumstances are not entitled to remain in the U.S. as refugees."

The report's findings open the way for the deportation of over 9,000 Haitians presently being detained in Miami. The body smugglers and "middlemen" who roam the Bahamas looking for travelers will continue to collect thousands of dollars for promise of "safe passage."□

Amos

Temporary Help

1066 W, Argyle
Chicago, Ill.
Phone: 334-1314

Help Wanted

SHIFTS:
1st: 5:30 a.m.
2nd: 2:00 p.m.
3rd: 9:30 p.m.

A & B FOOD MART

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES
Delivered Daily
At the lowest prices
WILSON & BROADWAY
Your Complete Neighborhood Supermarket

Little Quiapo
Restaurant

- Pancit palabok
- Siopao
- Halo-halo
- Lumpiang Sariwa

Rey Garcia
PROPRIETOR

4423 N. Clark, Chicago 60640

Consuelo's
3931 N. Ashland
312-935-7943

Vintage Clothing
Millinery

Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 1-7 p.m.
Fri.-Sat. 2-8 p.m.

Good Healthy Whole Foods And Supplements at People's Prices

Just Us. . Naturally
3818 N. Ashland Ave.
Bulk Herbs – Produce

Open 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. or Call 281-1164

San Juan Drugs INC.
916 W. Belmont
348-2432

General
Contracting
262-9414
Insured & Bonded

S & R
Gas Boiler
&
Air Conditioner

RELIABLE AMBULANCE
342-0400

Medicare Approved
Public Aid Accepted
Serving Uptown and Northside Chicago

. . . MOSTLY ENDS
BOB & LORRAINE WIRTZ
DEALERS IN USED FURNITURE, ETC.
WE DELIVER
swivel chairs • desks • dressers
6947 N. Glenwood
Chicago, Ill. *274-8226*

Roy's
7006 N. Glenwood

Sweet Home Chicago's
Heartland Cafe
Good Wholesome Food Mind & Body
At the Morse – Lunt El
700 N. Glenwood
Chicago 60626
Ph. 465-8005
Open Daily
7a.m.-11p.m. • Sat.-Sun. 10a.m.-11p.m.

For Men, Women and Children
Specializing in Naturals and Blowouts
TERRELL'S AFRO BARBER & BEAUTY SHOP
3752 N. Broadway
525-9866 525-0002
Shoe Shine
Air Conditioned
Tues. - Sat.
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Earthworks
HANDCRAFTED
STONEWARE
1405 W. Lunt
262-2522

World Drugs
1001 W. Belmont
Corner Belmont and Sheffield
Phone: 248-1100 - 1101
We carry a complete line of Latino products

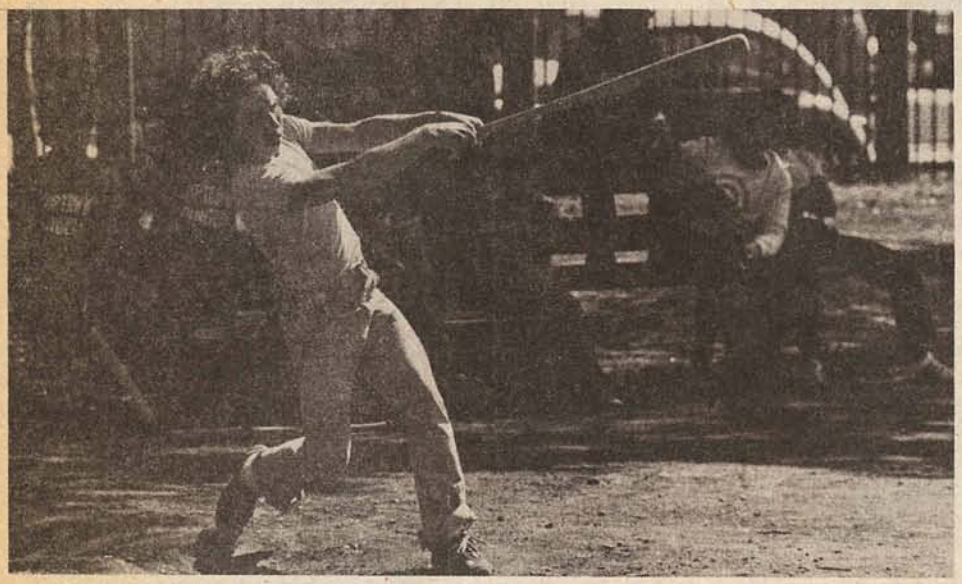
Quick Release

BIKE SHOP
1113 W. WEBSTER
871-3110

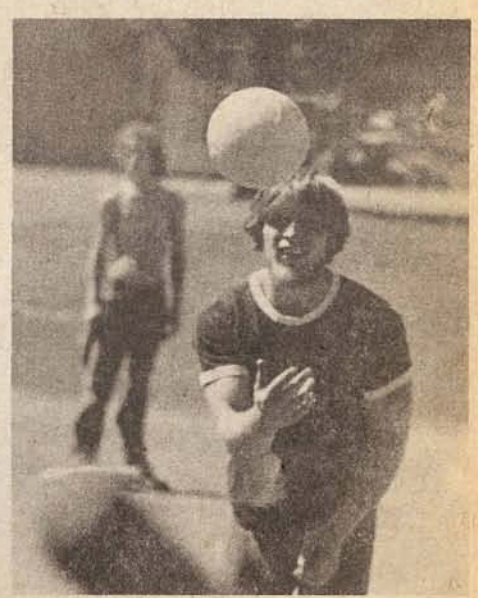
NEW WORLD RESOURCE CENTER
ANTI – IMPERIALIST BOOKS, PROGRAMS, FILMS
Tues. – Fri. • 2 - 8 p.m.
Sat. • Noon - 6 p.m.
1476 W. Irving Park Rd.
(312) 348-3370

Summer Softball League

For the second year in a row Uptown youth participated in an organized softball league. The four teams included youth from the various neighborhoods: the Uptown Angels representing the Magnolia-Sunnyside area; the Kenmore Boys came from Kenmore St.; the Latin Brothers from the Sheridan-Belle Plaine area and the High Times from Leland-Malden and Sunnyside Hazel. Several local businesses who recognize the value of organized recreation for the youth generously donated: A & B Super Foods; Alan's Shoes; Z. Wallis; Private Pie; International Grocery and Magnolia Super Market. Games were played every Saturday during the summer. □



Batting, fielding, catching and running the bases, the basics of softball, are the skills many of the youth develop through the softball league.



Competition, sportsmanship and cooperation made the league a success this summer, as last. Many of the youth look forward to another season next summer.

Blues - Jazz
Country Western

Rock - Soul
Gospel

THE RECORD SHACK
1112 W. Argyle
Ph. 271-6401

New and Old Records — One Dollar and Up

Purses and Jewelry

MONGO SANTAMARIA,
CELIA CRUZ,
TITO PUENTE
IRAKERE...

on *"LATIN EXPLOSION"*
Saturday at midnight

WOJO-FM 105

with –
JUAN MONTENEGRO
Request phone 591-4020

Always a good show at

Hyde Park Theater

2238 S. Harper
667-3940

WM. FLATTS & SHARPE GEO.
MUSIC COMPANY

6749 No. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, Illinois 60626

Phone:
(312) 465-5233

Repairs • Lessons

STRINGS
RECORDERS
HARMONICAS

Guitar and Bass Amplifiers.

Takamine
Yamaha
Cortez

Guild
Ovation

Travis Bean Guitars

round records

338-5762

TOP 100 LP'S
Always on Sale
We Buy or Trade for Used Records

6560 N. Sheridan Road • Chicago, Illinois 60626

New Owner

Riviera Theater
Broadway & Lawrence

Coming Soon...
Rocky II
and
The Deer Hunter

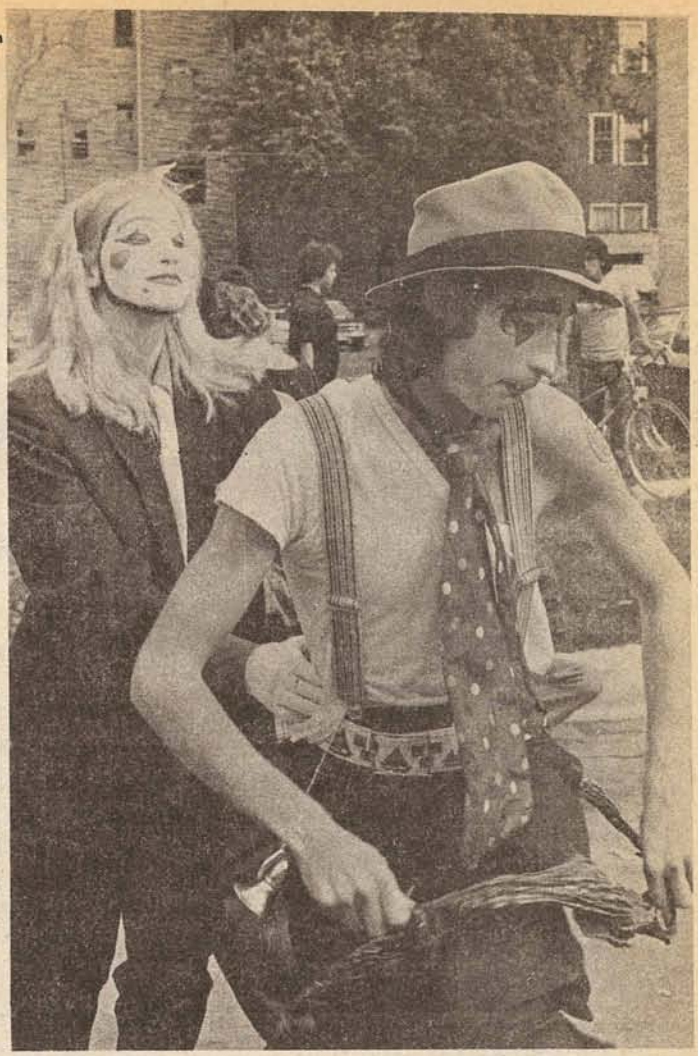
The Theater has been cleaned
& Redecorated

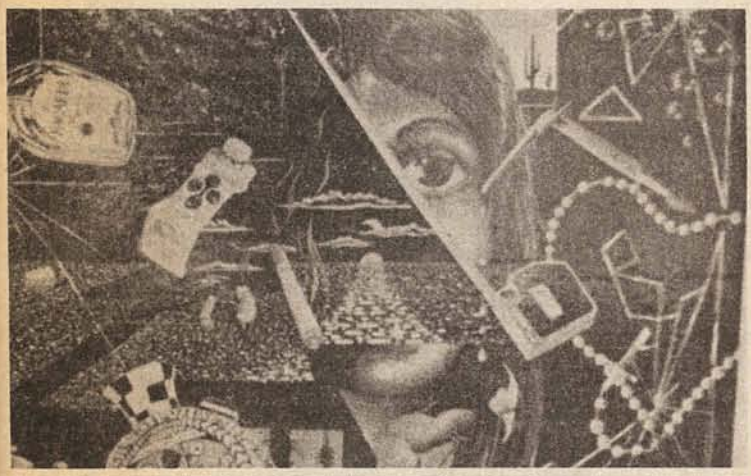
call 561-5049 for show times

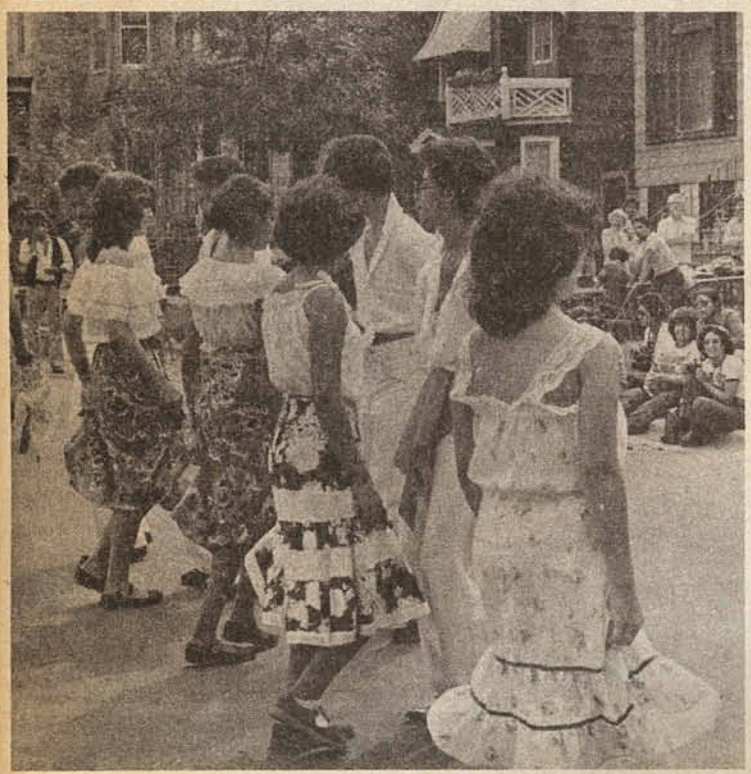
El Taller Fifth Annual Community Art Festival

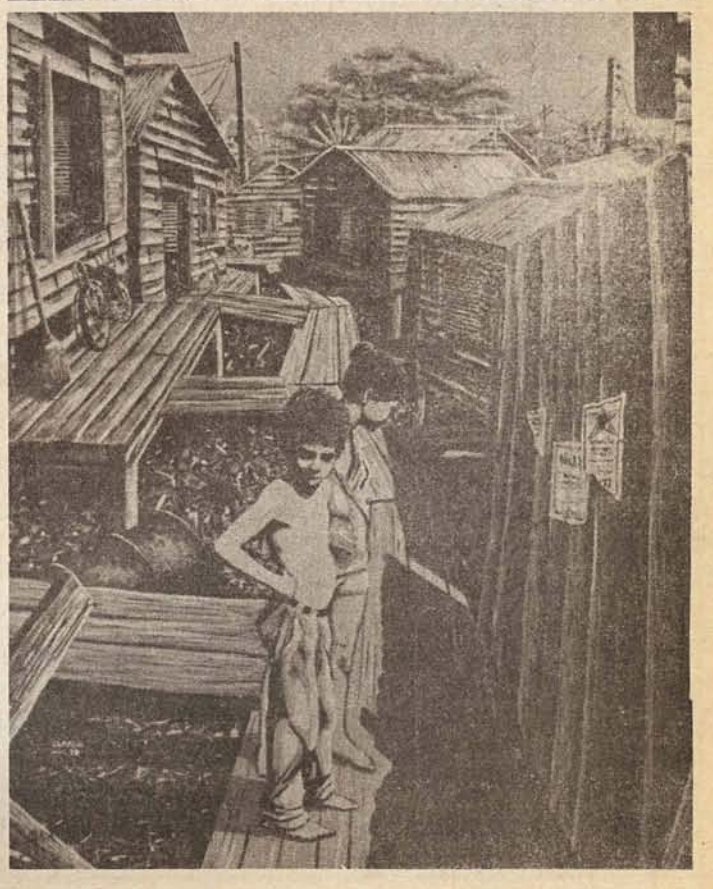
A successful community art festival at Kenmore and Grace on August 25 drew dozens of local creative and performing artists and several hundred guests. Many fine sculptures, drawings, paintings and photographs were on display in the El Taller workshop studio and up and down Kenmore Street. The stage was a constant hub for a variety of local performers.

The paintings below are by Gamaliel Ramirez and are entitled "Poverty" (bottom) and Marsha (top). The folk dancers are a group called La Juventud from the northwest side and are directed by Nick Rodriquez. The clowns are from the MoMing Bozo Ensemble, directed by Chris Malinowski.









SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Dear KEEP STRONG Staff:

I have been reading KEEP STRONG for several years now, and recently I noticed that it is the only magazine that I read all the way through. The combination of street saavy, the well-researched articles, emphasis on community control of development and inclusion of local, regional, national and international concerns is unique!

Keep up the good work!

Jim Marshall

P.S. I'm sending $25 to renew my subscription and sponsor 3 prisoner subscriptions.

☐ 1 Year $6 _____

☐ Renewal $6 _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

☐ Gift subscription $6 _____

Please send a subscription to:

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ Zip ____

☐ I would like to support your prisoner subscription program with a donation of $ _____

DON'S GRILL

1005 W. Argyle

784-1850

Hours:
6: a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Free coffee with breakfast and dinner

Chuck's Radio & T.V. Service

1114 Argyle St.

728-1634

ALL WORK GUARANTEED
USED SETS FOR SALE

Bernal's Clothing Appliances and Jewelry

Concepcion Bernal

4533 N. Sheridan
Chicago, Ill. 60640

Business – 334-9312
Home – 728-5623

THE HAIR FORCE

HAIR STYLE CENTER

SLIM

Cutting & Styling
For Men and Women

3517 N. Halsted • Chicago Phone 477-6777

Ray's Discount Center

4627 N. Broadway
334-9794

General Merchandise and Men's Clothing
This coupon worth 10% off on all prices

KENNY'S VARIETY

General Merchandise
944 Wilson

7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m. Mon. - Sat
8:00 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sun

SPECIALIZING in Drapes, Leathers Suedes & Hats

MAGNOLIA CLEANERS

"Only the name has changed – the services remain the same"

728-4442
1230 W. Wilson Ave.

Wilson - Racine Currency Exchange, Inc.

Checks Cashed • Money Orders
Food Stamps • License Service

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ 275-4622

1146 W. Wilson
Chicago, Illinois 60640

CHUCK'S

Used Furniture
and
Appliances
1370 W. Wilson • 271-1755

...NEXT MONTH

The Public Building Commission— *Chicago's largest landlord is the city. George Dunne is the chairman of the Public Building Commission which contracts and oversees millions of dollars of construction for the city and the school board each year. The money is good, the action is fast, but keep your eye on the dealer.*

Unemployment— *the robber of dignity from women and men, the thief of food and clothing from children. As unemployment engulfs communities across the country, KEEP STRONG begins the first of a series examining the causes and consequences. Once again we have gone to the experts – the working people, employed and unemployed.*

Plus

Developments in occupational health and safety, the law, housing, the economy, welfare rights, jobs, employment, unemployment and labor struggles, sports, entertainment, the nationwide struggles for social justice and liberation movements across the world. . . .The people and the communities that struggle daily to survive.

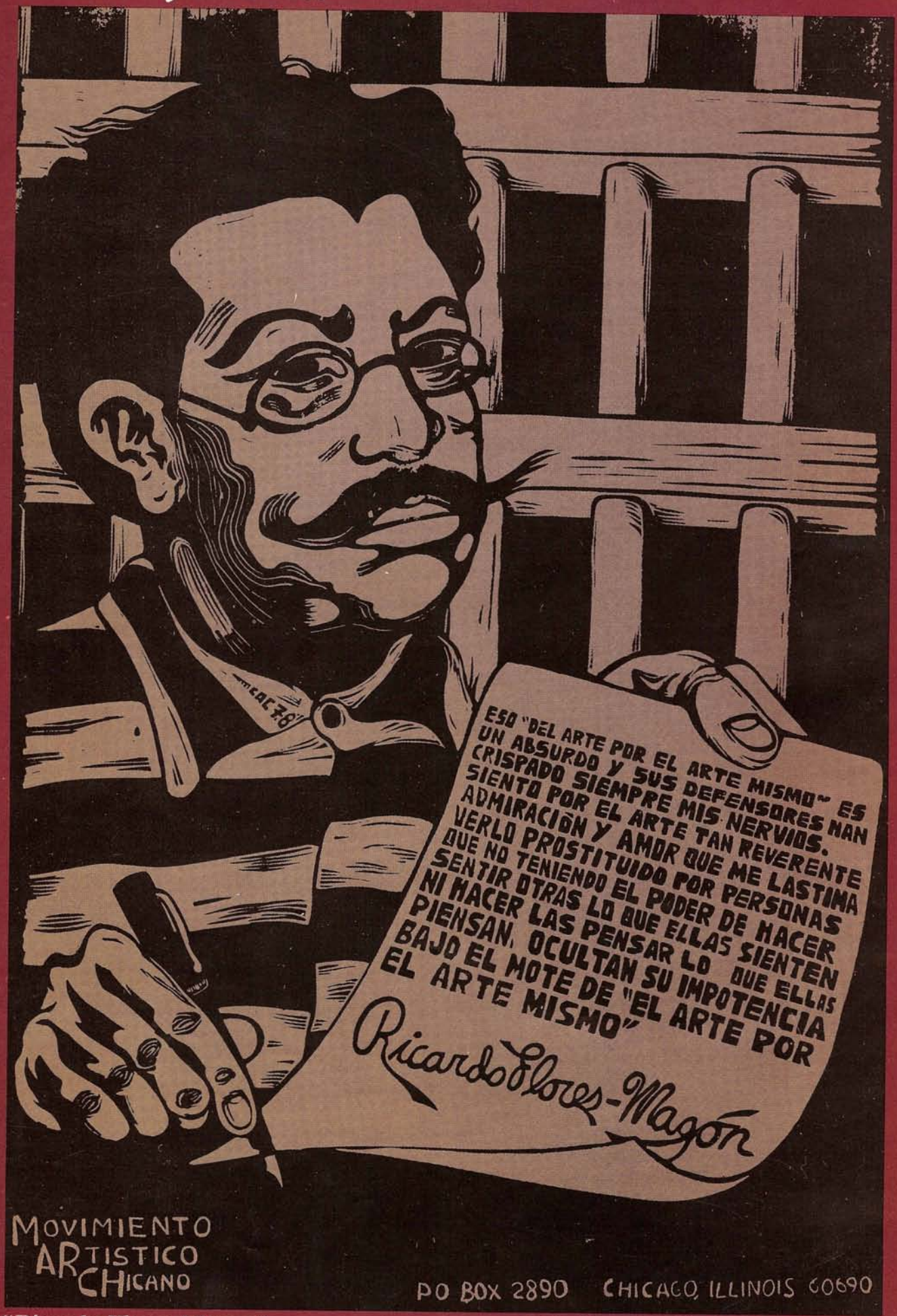
About The Back Cover

A reproduction of a poster depicting Ricardo Flores Magon, an early political thinker and activist in the La Raza movement. Ricardo and his brothers were the editors of "Regeneracion" the newspaper that became the voice of the Mexican Revolution prior to the outbreak of the actual fighting. The Magonistas were the leaders of the Partido Liberal Mexicano. Despite persecution on both sides of the border the organization had a large following in both Mexico and the United States.

Ricardo Flores Magon died in Ft. Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary in 1923, after having been strangled by a guard and receiving no medical attention. At the time he was serving a life sentence for Sedition against the United States for his activities on behalf of Mexicanos and Chicanos in the Southwest.

The artist is Carlos Cortez, a Chicano artist who makes his home on the northside of Chicago. Mr. Cortez is a founder and chairman of MARCH-Movimiento Artistico Chicano (Chicano Artists Movement).

The actual poster (36 x 24) is available for sale-send $3.50 to MARCH P.O. Box 2890, Chicago, IL 60690. Art and text courtesy of MARCH and El Taller Inc.-the workshop.


ESO "DEL ARTE POR EL ARTE MISMO" ES UN ABSURDO Y SUS DEFENSORES HAN CRISPADO SIEMPRE MIS NERVIOS. SIENTO POR EL ARTE TAN REVERENTE ADMIRACIÓN Y AMOR QUE ME LASTIMA VERLO PROSTITUIDO POR PERSONAS QUE NO TENIENDO EL PODER DE HACER SENTIR OTRAS LO QUE ELLAS SIENTEN NI HACER LAS PENSAR LO QUE ELLAS PIENSAN, OCULTAN SU IMPOTENCIA BAJO EL MOTE DE "EL ARTE POR EL ARTE MISMO"
Ricardo Flores-Magón
MOVIMIENTO ARTISTICO CHICANO
PO BOX 2890 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

"Ricardo Flores Magon" *Woodcut by Carlos Cortez, 1978*